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Japan

Hosokawa Leaves for Seattle APEC Summit

OW1911100593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0953 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa left Friday [19 November] evening for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit and bilateral talks with U.S. and Chinese and other Asian leaders in Seattle.

In his meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday night (Seattle time), Hosokawa is expected to explain a Japanese advisory panel's recommendations for income and residential tax reductions and consumption tax hikes to partially offset them, government officials said.

A Japanese Government official said the recommendations were important because the panel took the current economic slump into account in making the recommendations, many of which will be implemented.

Hosokawa is expected to praise Clinton for trying to improve relations with China, and Japanese officials said the prime minister plans to pledge Tokyo's cooperation in expanding Sino-U.S. ties.

On North Korea, the officials said, Hosokawa will tell Clinton of the need for close consultations among Japan, the United States and South Korea to deal with Pyongyang's alleged scheme to develop nuclear weapons.

Hosokawa and Clinton are also scheduled to compare notes on the ongoing Japan-U.S. framework negotiations and confirm their intention to conclude basic agreements on automobiles, auto parts, government procurements and insurance by January, and on other sectors by the time of the July 8-10 economic summit in Naples next year.

The Japanese and U.S. leaders also plan to reaffirm their commitment to a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, launched in Punta del Este, Uruguay in 1986.

Hosokawa's talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin will focus on reiterating Japan's regrets for wartime aggression and on Japan-China economic cooperation, the officials said. They said the Japanese leader will ask China to play a role in convincing North Korea to dispel the nuclear rumors.

Hosokawa is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Southeast Asian, Canadian and Australian leaders during his stay in Seattle.

Fujii Denies Accord With U.S. on Rice Issue

OW1911020893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0156 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii denied a newspaper report on Friday [19 November] that Japan has reached a general agreement with the United States on opening the rice market. Speaking at a regular press conference, Fujii said he has no knowledge of the reported accord.

Tokyo intends to maintain its policy of not accepting a tariffication scheme as proposed by Arthur Dunkel, former head of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, Fujii said.

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said Japan had agreed to allow a minimum import access of around 4 percent for rice in the initial year of fiscal 1995, in a departure from its policy of self-sufficiency in the staple food.

Referring to recommendations to overhaul Japan's tax system, Fujii said it was up to politicians to transform them into actual policies to stimulate the economy. He said politicians have the sole responsibility for putting the proposals to practical use and that the government will formulate a tax policy which reflects the voice of the Japanese people.

The government's tax commission will submit a mid-term report to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on Friday afternoon. It is expected to feature income tax cuts and a hike in consumption tax.

Fujii indicated that the second supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 will be revised downward. Falling revenues amid the prolonged economic slump will be reflected in the extra budget, but it has not yet been decided when it will be compiled.

Fujii repeatedly rejected the idea of introducing numerical targets in trade as possibly leading to managed trade, but he acknowledged that a current account surplus being incurred by one country over a long period of time is undesirable for the global economy.

Japanese, ROK Legislators on Open Rice Market

OW1911041893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0327 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Opposition legislators from Japan and South Korea strongly opposed the looming opening of the rice mart in a joint statement issued Friday.

"In Japan and South Korea rice has the important function to maintain food self-sufficiency," said the statement backed by some 139 legislators of Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and 107 parliamentarians of South Korea's Democratic Party and United People's Party.

The legislators said they will boycott the ratification of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks if their governments make "a unilateral compromise" by accepting the tariffication of rice.

Hosokawa: No Change in Nation's Rice Policy

OW1911050393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Japan is sticking to its policy of opposing a proposal to replace its rice import ban with tariffs, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa said Friday.

Hosokawa made the statement at a meeting of the government and the ruling coalition, while commenting on a news report that Japan has agreed with the United States to open its rice market in the fiscal year beginning April 1995, official sources said. The report said the agreement allows Japan to consider the tariffication proposal after a six-year moratorium.

Japan has been under pressure in ongoing world trade talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to include rice in converting nontariff barriers into tariffs.

Eijiro Hata, minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, denied the report on a Japan-U.S. rice deal. He told reporters that Hosokawa told him earlier Friday that Japan should adhere to its policy of opposing the tariffication proposal. "There is absolutely no such deal between Japan and the U.S.," he said.

Hata also said Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton may discuss the rice issue as part of their discussions on the multilateral trade talks when they meet at the current Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Seattle. If that happens, the prime minister will tell Clinton that Japan cannot accept the tariffication scheme, Hata said.

Ministry Announces Aid for Former Yugoslavia

OW1911084193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Japan will extend emergency contributions of 18 million dollars to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to assist its humanitarian relief operations for people afflicted by conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, the Foreign Ministry said Friday [19 November]. The government will also extend 2 million dollars to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for the same purpose, the ministry said.

Japan's aid is in response to appeals by the UNHCR and the ICRC as the second severe winter since the outbreak of conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina approaches, the ministry said.

The number of people afflicted since March 1992 reached about 4.26 million as of October this year. The people are suffering from lack of food and daily necessities, it said.

Since 1992, Japan has contributed a total of about 82 million dollars, including the latest aid, to assist conflict-afflicted people there, the ministry said.

The assistance includes 60.44 million dollars to the UNHCR, 4.62 million dollars to the ICRC, 16.58 million dollars to the World Food Program (WFP), 500,000 dollars to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and 100,000 dollars to the UN Volunteers (UNV), it said.

The UNHCR has been carrying out humanitarian relief operations since November 1991. The ICRC has also been carrying out relief work, such as providing goods and medical services, and the release, exchange and protection of war prisoners, the ministry said.

Developments in Nigeria 'Truly Regrettable'

OW1911111093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Japan voiced regret Friday [19 November] over the establishment of a new military government in Nigeria, saying it will reconsider its aid policy toward the African nation.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Terusuke Terada said in a statement it is "truly regrettable" that a new military government led by Gen. Sani Abacha, the defense minister, replaced the interim national government Wednesday.

It is also regrettable that the new government decided to take measures against the democratization of Nigeria, such as dissolving the National Assembly and political parties, and banning political gatherings, the statement said. Japan has been expressing hope that the democratization process in Nigeria would progress steadily and peacefully, he said.

Tokyo will watch closely the developments in Nigeria and plans to reconsider the relationship between Japan and that country, including the provision of aid, the statement said.

On Wednesday, Abacha, who helped engineer two previous military coups in 1983 and 1985, ousted civilian head of state Ernest Shonekan and took over power. Britain, Nigeria's former colonizer, has denounced the coup, as has the United States.

Accord Reached on Rescheduling Guinea Debt

OW1811154793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1500 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The Japanese Government has agreed with the West African nation of Guinea to reschedule its debt payments, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday [18 November].

The debts to be covered total 1.75 billion yen. Repayment of the debts fell due on or before December 31, 1992, but capital and rescheduled interest has yet been

paid, the ministry said. It is the third time that Japan has taken debt relief measures for Guinea, it said.

Japanese Ambassador to Guinea Keiichi Kitaban and Guinea's Minister of Planning and Finance Soriba Kaba exchanged documents on the agreement in Conakry, Guinea, the ministry said.

Of the total, yen-denominated debts amount to 216 million yen and dollar-denominated debts 14 million dollars, it said. The repayment method will consist of 45 semiannual installments beginning January 1, 1994.

Japan's latest debt-relief measures will be taken on the basis of an agreement on the outline of a debt-relief scheme for Guinea's commercial debts, reached at the Paris Club meeting of creditor countries in November 1992, the ministry said.

The meeting was held to relieve debts of Guinea which faced serious difficulties in international balance of payments due to its failure of socialist policies, it said.

LDP 'Dissidents' Suspended Over Reform Bills

OW1911073393 Tokyo KYODO in English 0558 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said Friday [19 November] it has ordered a temporary halt to party activities by 13 dissidents who supported a government-proposed political reform package in Thursday's vote in the House of Representatives.

The main opposition party also said it will question another eight dissident legislators who boycotted the session or abstained from voting for the LDP's alternative plan, they said. The decisions were made at a meeting of party executives led by LDP President Yohei Kono, officials said.

The party stopped short, however, saying it would strip the 21 legislators of party membership. The party executives decided to resume discussions on how to deal with the rebels at Wednesday's meeting of the party's party ethics committee, the officials said.

The government reforms will replace the current 511 seats in the lower chamber with 500 seats, comprising 274 single-seat districts and 226 chosen by proportional representation. The LDP leadership had ordered all its members to vote against the government bills.

The 13 are Takeo Nishioka, Shigeru Ishiba, Masamitsu Oishi, Hachiro Okonogi, Kenji Kosaka, Teruhisa Mashiko, Seiichi Ota, Shokei Arai, Shizuo Sato, Yasuichi Hamada, Takashi Sasakawa, Toshikazu Yamaguchi and Norihiko Akagi. Ten of them belong to the League of Parliamentarians for Promotion of Political Reform, an intraparty group led by former Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Among the eight who are to be quizzed by LDP Secretary General Yoshiro Mori are Kaifu and former Justice Minister Masaharu Gotoda, who abstained from voting on the government bills Thursday.

Opponents of the electoral reform bills are demanding that the party leadership severely penalize the 13 so as to prevent a further rebellion against the party line in two rounds of voting in the House of Councillors, they said. But supporters of the bills are urging the party leadership not to take any disciplinary steps.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told leaders of the ruling coalition it is possible that the reform package will still have to clear a major hurdle in the upper chamber.

The current 90-day Diet session is due to expire on December 15, a tentative deadline that could be extended. But Hosokawa has hinted at his readiness to quit the premiership unless the package gets through both chambers of the Diet by the year-end.

"We will face difficulties in the House of Councillors. I ask for your support, as my administration is determined to legislate the political reform bills wholeheartedly," Hosokawa said.

In a related development, Akira Yamagishi, chairman of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), Japan's largest labor organization, urged the Social Democratic Party to penalize the five SDP legislators who voted against the government bills. The five said the bills could jeopardize the parliamentary existence of the SDP, whose legislators generally do not have strong support groups in local constituencies.

"If the SDP leadership gave tacit approval (to the five's rebellion), it would encourage intraparty opponents of the reform bills to seek to vote down the bills in the upper chamber," said Yamagishi, an ally of coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa. Yamagishi said such a rebellion by SDP legislators in the upper chamber could scuttle the government bills.

Although the coalition holds a stable majority in the 252-seat upper house, the government bills could theoretically be voted down if more than 28 SDP rebels vote against them. The LDP has 99 members in the upper house.

Saito Said To Admit Bribing Miyagi Governor

OW1911054793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Business tycoon Ryoei Saito has admitted to prosecutors that he gave a 100 million yen bribe to the then-governor of the north Japan Prefecture of Miyagi in 1991, prosecution sources said Friday.

Saito, 77, former owner and honorary chairman of the country's top papermaker, Daishowa Paper Mfg. Co.,

was arrested by prosecutors on November 11 on suspicion of handing the money as a bribe to Shuntaro Honma in December 1991 in exchange for Honma's favorable treatment in golf course and housing projects carried out by two affiliated companies. On his arrest, Saito denied giving the money to Honma as a bribe, telling prosecutors it was a present, the sources said.

The two subsidiaries, Daishowa Greenport Development Co. and Daishowa Ashitaka Co., had applied for permission for the projects to build houses and a golf course in Natori, Miyagi Prefecture. Permission was granted even though the projects initially violated prefectural regulations, the sources said.

Saito attracted much international attention in May 1990 when he paid record prices for two paintings—Vincent van Gogh's "portrait of Dr. Gachet" for 82.5 million dollars and Auguste Renoir's "Au Moulin de la Galette" for 78.1 million dollars. Saito stepped down as honorary chairman after his arrest.

Honma, 53, has been indicted on charges of taking a 20 million yen bribe from top contractor Taisei Corp. in a wide-ranging investigation into corrupt relations between leading general contractors and politicians over bids for public works projects.

Some 30 people including businessmen and four local government chiefs have been held by prosecutors since late June.

New Broadcast Association Chairman Appointed

OW1911134093 Tokyo KYODO in English 1312 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Hirozo Isozaki, president of Tokyo Broadcasting System Co. (TBS), was appointed chairman of the National Association of Commercial Broadcasters on Friday [19 November], one month after his predecessor resigned over allegations of news bias. Koichiro Kuwata resigned as chairman October 20 to take responsibility for the controversy over remarks by a news bureau chief of Asahi National Broadcasting Co. (TV ASAHI), where Kuwata is an adviser, about the station's coverage of the July 18 general election.

In mid-October, the SANKEI SHIMBUN newspaper reported Sadatoshi Tsubaki, then TV ASAHI news bureau chief, as saying at a September 21 assocaition meeting that he told ASAHI reporters to cover the July general election in such a way that a government excluding the LDP would be born.

Tsubaki was also quoted as saying his station does not necessarily need to be impartial in its reporting and it had broadcast news in such a way as to support specific candidates in the polls. In a Diet testimony on October 25, he denied that TV ASAHI's coverage of the election was designed to oust the LDP from power.

Isozaki told a press conference he has considered the issue solemnly. "I think it is our immediate responsibility that we restore trust through everyday broadcasting." Isozaki, a graduate of Waseda Univeristy, joined TBS in 1957 and assumed the presidency in 1991.

Income Tax Cut, Consumption Tax Raise Urged

OW1911073493 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—A government advisory panel on Friday [19 November] proposed an income tax cut and a consumption tax hike, but said nothing regarding specific figures or dates. The proposals came in a report on a "medium-term" tax system compiled every three years by the Tax Commission, an advisory panel to the prime minister.

The report, submitted Friday afternoon by panel chairman Kan Kato, professor at Keio University, to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, stresses "the importance of creating a balanced tax system" primarily on income, consumption and assets for "members of society to broadly share burdens."

This is in line with the panel's main objective of realizing a "fair and vital aging society" as the report is subtitled.

The panel recommends a "sharp reduction of tax burdens" on personal income, mainly in "the medium-income bracket," and "an increase of consumption tax weight in the overall tax system by raising the rate," which is currently at 3 percent.

On asset taxes, the panel wants the government to further "review burden levels particularly in inheritance taxes" which has become a heavier share in the overall tax system since the speculative land boom in the late 1980s. But for the land-value tax introduced in 1991 to stem land speculation, the report rejects calls by business leaders to abolish the tax by saying the current system of revision every five years if necessary should be implemented "steadily."

The report leaves decisions on when and by how much to cut and raise taxes to the government, and merely requests "efforts as quickly as possible toward a concrete overall review of the tax system."

The only numerical proposal is to lower the maximum combined rate for income and residential taxes to 50 percent from the current 65 percent—50 percent on income taxes and 15 percent on residential taxes.

The report says legislation on the proposed tax reforms should be combined into a "single plan." The report covers a wide-range of taxes and systems, and calls for higher deductions on taxable income for salaried workers, unchanged single rate and exemption items from the consumption tax, lower corporate income tax, and further study on the taxpayer number system.

Meanwhile, the report stressed the need for the government to streamline expenditure and to improve social welfare and other measures as a cushion for lower income brackets that will suffer when the consumption tax is increased. But the panel is against fixing the partial usage of the consumption tax for social welfare because it may lead to blocking flexible financing of welfare programs.

Based on the government's response to the report, the panel will begin working on its proposals for tax reform for fiscal 1994 starting next April. As a start, regional hearings on the report will be held next Wednesday and discussions will enter the final stage toward the year-end.

Panel Chief on Tax Reform Report to Hosokawa

OW1911094093 Tokyo KYODO in English 0919 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—A government advisory panel proposed an income tax cut and a consumption tax hike Friday [19 November], but the panel's chief said their timing and scale is up to politicians. The proposals came in a report on the "medium-term" tax system which is compiled every three years by the Tax Commission, which advises the prime minister.

"The panel's nature is to discuss the structure and not policy ...and such details as the amount and timing should be a political decision," Kan Kato, chairman, told a press meeting soon after submitting the report to Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. But Kato, a professor at Keio University, acknowledged that panel members had the economic slump in mind in their discussions, and there was much support for an income tax cut to prop up business activities.

Hosokawa told reporters he will study the report for fiscal 1994 tax reform. Attention is focused on when Hosokawa will announce a decision on tax changes as an aide indicated earlier this week the premier plans to implement a 5 trillion to 6 trillion yen income tax cut in January.

The report stresses "the importance of creating a balanced tax system" primarily on income, consumption and assets for "members of society to broadly share the burden." The panel recommends a sharp reduction of tax burdens in personal income mainly for the medium-income bracket of 7 to 8 million yen per year and increasing the consumption tax's weight in the tax system by raising it from the current 3 percent.

On asset taxes, the panel wants the government to further "review burden levels particularly in inheritance taxes" which have a larger share of the overall tax system following the speculative land boom in the late 1980s. But the report rejects calls by business leaders to abolish the land-value tax, introduced in 1991 to stem land speculation, arguing that the current system of revising taxes every five years if necessary should be implemented "steadily at the moment."

Otherwise, the report leaves the decision on the timing and scale of tax changes to the government and politicians by simply requesting "efforts as fast as possible toward concrete overall review of the tax system."

The only numerical proposal is to lower the maximum combined rate for income and residence taxes to 50 percent from the current 65 percent—50 percent on income taxes and 15 percent on residence taxes.

The panel rejected the idea of an economic stimulus option of cutting income taxes before a consumption tax hike and issuing "bridge bonds" to finance the tax cut. But apparently paving the way for implementation of such a plan in future, the report says legislation on the proposed tax reforms should be combined into a "single plan."

This reflects earlier remarks made by Hosokawa to the Diet that an income tax cut must be carried out under a single set of laws.

Panel sources had indicated at an early stage of the discussions that panel members are inclined to favor a 5 trillion-6 trillion yen cut in income and residence taxes in advance and the issue of bridge bonds to finance a tax shortfall before a consumption tax hike. But late last week after chairman Kato announced a delay in issuing the report from Tuesday to Friday to change the wording, the sources said such concrete proposals had been erased.

Briefing reporters on the final version, Finance Ministry officials said the medium-term report is intended as a directive for the tax system in the longer run to cope with the aging society. "We tried to drop any implication of short-term economic effects," said one of the officials.

Indeed, the report limits its links with economic measures by just mentioning the panel "expects" the proposed tax reform will "also produce favorable effects on the economy by heightening socioeconomic vitality and clearing uncertainties" over business activities ahead.

Meanwhile, the official noted the panel could discuss concrete proposals for drafting a tax reform report for fiscal 1994 which starts April 1.

As a start, the panel is scheduled to hold regional hearings on Wednesday, and discussions will enter the final stage toward the end of the year.

It is now up to Hosokawa to decide whether to make public his policy on tax changes before or after he meets U.S. President Bill Clinton in Seattle over the weekend at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit.

His close aide, requesting anonymity, said Wednesday that Hosokawa will announce his decision after receiving the panel's report.

The decision will be to cut 5 trillion-6 trillion yen in income and residence taxes in January and to delay a

consumption tax hike by more than a year to try and boost the economy, the aide said.

Business Reaction to Tax Proposal Mixed

OW1911124693 Tokyo KYODO in English 1225 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Japan's business community reacted with a mixture of relief and opposition Friday [19 November] to a government advisory panel's report calling for a cut in income taxes and a rise in the consumption tax. "I understand fully the proposal for a cut in income taxes in exchange for a rise in the consumption tax," said Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, in a written statement.

Koichiro Ejiri, chairman of the Japan Foreign Trade Council, also gave the nod to the tax commission report. "I feel the debate (on taxation) has fully reflected the people's opinions," Ejiri said in a statement.

In a long-awaited report, the Tax Commission recommended a large cut in income taxes and a hike in the consumption tax, but without specifying the size and timing of the changes.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Japan Federation of Employers Associations (Nikkeiren), spoke against the recommendations. "It will be hard to win taxpayers' understanding if an increase in the consumption tax is a prerequisite to a cut in income taxes," Nagano said.

Yoshiaki Sakakura, chairman of the Japan Department Stores Association, urged a larger income tax cut, and denounced the proposed raising of the consumption tax.

"If the scale of the income tax cut is about 5 trillion yen, there will be little impact...at least 10 trillion yen is needed," Sakakura said. "It's something like ignoring the people's feelings to speak of a rise in the consumption tax right now."

Junichiro Tanaka, president of real estate developer Mitsui Fudosan Co., expressed disappointment at the lack of any proposal for reviewing land taxation. "The current tax system is a drag on businesses and individuals trying to cope with asset inflation," Tanaka said in reference to the heavy tax burden on big retailers with outlets in expensive urban shopping areas.

EPA Chief Urges Early Decision on Tax Cut

OW1911054893 Tokyo KYODO in English 0207 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Japan's chief economic planner called Friday for a special cabinet meeting to be held to decide on an income tax cut to jump-start the stagnant economy.

Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, told reporters that she and Labor Minister Chikara Sakaguchi strongly requested at a cabinet meeting Friday that the meeting be held as early as possible after Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa returns from Seattle. Referring to a report to be submitted to Hosokawa on Friday by the Tax Commission, an advisory panel, Kubota said, "I've heard the report will be vaguely worded to leave specific decisions to the government."

Hosokawa is leaving for Seattle on Friday evening to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders' meeting over the weekend.

Kubota said she wants a tax cut soon, especially in light of deteriorating "personal consumption and such lagging economic indicators as employment."

But she declined to say what size such a cut should be, saying she wants to think it over after reviewing the panel report. She also rejected too steep an increase in the consumption tax.

Minister Approves New Highway Construction

OW1911100293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0940 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Tokyo, Nov. 19 KYODO—Construction Minister Kozo Igarashi on Friday [19 November] gave the go-ahead to start construction of new highways with a total length of 1,184 kilometers across the country, ministry officials said. Igarashi issued an instruction to the government-financed Japan Highway Public Corp. for the construction of 34 sections of 21 key roads, including highways between Tokyo and Osaka, as part of a scheme to overcome Japan's economic slump, the officials said.

Total cost of the construction projects is estimated at about 10 trillion yen, the officials said. The corporation will complete the projects in about 10 years, the officials said.

Of the various projects, construction of expressways with a total length of 1,034 kilometers will begin next fiscal year, starting in April 1994, the officials said.

Among the planned expressway projects are parts of a No. 2 Tomei expressway between Tokyo and Nagoya and a No. 2 Meishin expressway between Nagoya and Osaka. Traffic jams often occur on the existing Tomei and Meishin routes.

It is unusual for one instruction from the ministry to cover the construction of more than 1,000 kilometers of highways, construction industry sources said, adding that Igarashi gave the green light as one means of coping with the current long-standing economic recession. The ministry will have no alternative but to raise tolls on existing expressways to offset the construction costs, the sources said.

North Korea

Japan Trying To Brand DPRK 'Nuclear Criminal'

SK1911110393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 19 Nov 93

["Japan's Crafty Scheme To Brand DPRK as 'Nuclear Criminal'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today denounces the Japanese reactionaries for trying to get the DPRK branded as a "nuclear criminal" in a bid to conceal and defend their militarist moves.

A signed article of the paper says:

Styling themselves a "model country" in the matter of discharging duties of international nuclear inspection, the Japanese reactionaries, above all, are craftily trying to have "inspection" by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] "focussed" on us. The science and technology agency of Japan in a document submitted to a high-ranking official of the IAEA in June last year "proposed" to stop inspection of "model countries" like Japan and to leave it to them to make their own "independent observation". According to Japan's shameless logic, Japan and other countries should be exempted from inspection, as they can be trusted internationally in the nuclear issue, and it should instead be focussed on objects of "nuclear suspicion" like the DPRK to further enhance the effectiveness of the current inspection.

Offering up-to-date inspection camera to the IAEA, the Japanese reactionaries are also trying to get the IAEA to make a more strict inspection of the DPRK. Japan has proposed several times that the IAEA introduce an inspection system using ultra-modern scientific and technological equipment. Japan is seeking through this proposal to give herself a boost in the IAEA on the one hand and make the IAEA introduce self-acting strict inspection system and apparatuses to fully "control and supervise" the DPRK on the other.

Japan is also intending to knock into shape its sponsored Asian atomic energy body to establish its regional nuclear monopoly and continue to do harm to us.

In July the science and technology agency of Japan framed and published a plan of establishing an "Asian Atomic Energy Agency". The aim sought by Japan here is to get the mastery in the agency and bind us to it and exercise the "right of nuclear control" against us.

Country Said Prepared 'To Meet Force With Force'

SK1911044893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 19 Nov 93

["NODONG SINMUN Lashes at S. Korean Authorities' War Moves"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—Those who forestall the other on the Korean peninsula must know that they cannot go scotfree, warns NODONG SINMUN today.

Commenting on the very grave and dangerous situation created by the South Korean ruling forces' reckless confrontation and belligerent moves, the analyst says:

Due to the reckless moves of the South Korean "civilian" warmaniacs, the situation of the Korean peninsula has deteriorated, reminding us of the time when the United States and the Syngman Rhee treacherous clique unleashed a war in the 1950s.

The nuclear war exercises under the new codename of "Foal Eagle 93" and the "Hwarang" military manoeuvres against the North have been staged frantically for several days in South Korea.

Anybody can predict that those who are pushing ahead the war chariot under the manipulation of outside forces may start a war on the peninsula encouraged by the international reactionary forces, to stifle our republic.

There is no guarantee that the South Korean ruling group's proclamation of an "emergency alert posture" in the puppet army and its announcement that a "military countermove would not be ruled out" will not lead to a nuclear war against the North.

We are following with heightened vigilance the reckless military moves taken by the Kim Yong-sam ruling group of South Korea with outside forces.

If the South Korean "civilian" rulers think they can get something in provoking a war against fellow countrymen in league with outside forces, it is a mistake.

We are fully prepared to meet force with force.

SKNDF Spokesman Condemns Foal Eagle Exercises

SK1911043293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 19 Nov 93

["Hanminjon Spokesman Urges Halt to War Games"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] (Hanminjon) condemned "Foal Eagle 93" and "Hwarang" military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique as a challenge to the whole nation desirous of peace and reunification and as an unpardonable criminal act intended to plunge the territory of the country into the scourge of a nuclear war, according to the Radio Voice of National Salvation.

In a commentary published on Nov. 15, he noted the current war games clearly prove that the war scheme of

the U.S. imperialists and the Kim Yong-sam "regime" to invade the North has already entered into a grave stage of implementation.

He said:

"The Kim Yong-sam 'regime' must not act rashly, squarely looking at the invariable will of our nation and people for peace and reunification, but unconditionally stop at once the anti-national, anti-reunification war exercises designed to make the fellow countrymen fall victim to a nuclear war with the backing of outside forces.

"If the U.S. imperialists and the bellicose Kim Yong-sam 'regime' finally provoke another war against the North in this land, carried away by their anachronistic ambition, our Hanminjon and the people of all walks of life will turn out to severely punish the aggressors and traitors and honorably defend the interests of the nation together with the brethren in the North."

Meetings Denounce 'Supression' of South Students

SK1811115293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 18 (KCNA)—Meetings have been held at universities in the northern half of Korea to bitterly denounce the suppression of campus by the South Korean authorities.

At meetings held at Kim Hyong-chik University of education and Kim Chaek University of technology the speakers branded the South Korean puppets' harsh suppression of South Korean students who waged the righteous struggle for independence, democracy and reunification as a challenge to the fellow countrymen's desire for independence and reunification.

They noted that at a time when the whole nation was unanimously urging Japan to pay dearly for the crimes committed by the Japanese imperialists, the South Korean puppets were trying to do harm to fellow countrymen in league with the Japanese authorities, courting their favor. They said the reality showed that with such traitors as the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique left intact, it was impossible to achieve national reunification ardently desired by the entire fellow countrymen.

They strongly demanded that the South Korean authorities promptly stop the fascist suppression of the South Korean students' just, patriotic struggle at the pointing bayonet and unconditionally release all the illegally arrested students at once.

WPK, Visiting Zimbabwe Delegation Hold Talks

SK1811062693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 18 (KCNA)—Talks were held here Wednesday between the delegations of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front.

Present there on the Korean side were Hwang Chang-yop, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the WPK Central Committee, and other officials concerned, and on the opposite side were the ZANU-PF delegation led by Stephen Nkomo, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of its Central Committee.

At the talks both sides informed each other of the activities of their parties, discussed the development of bilateral relations of friendship and exchanged views on a series of matters of common concern.

The talks proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Cultural Delegation Arrives in Bangladesh

SK1711235293 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Our country's government cultural delegation led by Chang Chol, vice premier and minister of culture and art, arrived in Bangladesh on 11 November. The delegation was greeted at the airport by the Bangladesh minister of state for cultural affairs, officials from the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and the Foreign Ministry, and our country's ambassador to Bangladesh and embassy staffs.

The delegation departed Bangkok on 11 November after completing its visit to Thailand. At the airport, the delegation was seen off by the inspector general in the Thai Ministry of Education, officials concerned, and our country's ambassador to Thailand. During its stay in Thailand, the delegation met and held talks with the Thai minister of education and officials from the publication and press domain. The delegation also held talks with responsible officials in the Ministry of Education. The delegation toured educational organizations in Bangkok, the capital of this country, and other areas.

Further on Journalists Union Congress

Congress Adopts 'Appeal'

SK1911051993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0448 GMT 19 Nov 93

["Appeal to Men of the Press of World To Turn Out in Struggle for Building Independent New World"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—The seventh congress of the Korean journalists union expressed the unshakable determination of the Korean journalists, men of the press to fight for the victory of the people's cause of independence, the cause of peace, and called upon the world's progressive journalists, men of the press to turn out in the struggle against all manner of domination and subjugation and for the building of an independent new world.

An appeal to the progressive journalists, men of the press of the world, adopted at the congress, says "it is an honor and pride of the progressive journalists, men of the press of our times to fight for the victory of the people's cause of independence, the cause of peace." Journalists, men of the press in the era of independence should naturally turn out vigorously in the struggle to eliminate all forms of inequalities and democratize the international public, it stresses.

The progressive journalists, men of the press should expose to the world and denounce all the highhanded practices of the imperialists, it says, calling for a powerful press campaign to check and frustrate the attempts of the imperialists to bring other countries under their control through political, economic and diplomatic pressure and blockade.

The appeal says the progressive journalists, men of the press should join the world's people in the anti-nuke peace movement and make practical efforts for a permanent stop to nuclear testing reduction of nuclear weapons and, furthermore, total elimination of all nuclear weapons, and tear to pieces the imperialists' "peace" package and lay bare the dangerous nature of their policy of aggression and war.

It appeals to them to unremittingly press on with press campaigns to remove antagonism and distrust among countries and nations and create an atmosphere of friendship, harmony and cooperation based on independence.

It also calls upon them to conduct viable press activities to further expand and strengthen the non-aligned movement, condemn the imperialists' moves to stifle socialism, and extend support and solidarity to the countries and peoples defending and aspiring after socialism.

The appeal says:

"We express deep thanks to the world's progressive journalists, men of the press who have rendered unsparing support and encouragement to our people's cause of national reunification in the past, understanding the urgency of the question of Korean reunification, and hope that they would do the same invariably in the future, too.

"At the same time, we believe that they will as ever extend solidarity to the South Korean people and journalists in the struggle for independence, peaceful reunification and democracy.

"The Korean journalists, men of the press who set store by justice and truth and regard it as their noble internationalist duty to contribute to the people's cause of independence, will, as in the past so in the future, too, creditably discharge their noble duty in close unity with the world's progressive journalists, men of the press."

Call for Reunification Struggle

SK1911094693 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0454 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—The ongoing seventh congress of the Korean journalists union called upon the South Korean journalists, men of the press to vigorously turn out in the struggle for realizing the cause of national reunification without fail in the 90s, holding high the pen of justice and national independence.

An appeal to the South Korean journalists, men of the press, adopted at the congress, says "nothing is more important for our people than to reunify the divided country, and there is no more sacred mission for the Korean journalists, men of the press than to raise the pen for national independence."

"We, journalists, men of the press, should never remain an onlooker to the realities, to the tragedy of the divided nation, but must turn out resolutely for the country and nation, wielding high the pen of patriotism," it stresses.

The South Korean journalists, men of the press, it says, should not become a servant of power or a waiting-maid of capital going against the development of the times but make their pen a surgical knife dissecting all social evils of South Korea that trample upon human dignity and conscience and a weapon of accusation against corruption.

"All the journalists, men of the press who truly want national reunification should become active supporters and propagandists of the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country and make strenuous efforts to carry it into practice, and energetically lead the masses to the struggle for the accomplishment of the noble cause of establishing a unified state through confederation," the appeal says.

It also appeals to them to make positive efforts for the realization of independent non-governmental dialogue, contacts and free travels between journalists, men of the press in the North and the South and conduct publication and information services to further expand and strengthen the national alliance for the country's reunification.

Kim Chong-il Nominated Chairman

SK1911093593

[Editorial Report] Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean at 0600 GMT on 18 November carries an 84-minute recorded coverage of the second-day morning session of the Seventh Congress of the Korean Journalists Union (KJU). The announcer identifies the first speaker as Kim Chong-suk, editor in chief of MINJU CHOSON.

Kim, begins her 5-minute recorded speech by saying:

"Only with the leader [suryong], can a revolutionary publication be founded. Only with the leader [suryong], can a revolutionary socialist system be established. And only with the leader [suryong], can publications defend the revolutionary fortress of the society to the end under the revolutionary banner. [applause]

"Revolutionary publications are precisely the publications of the leader [suryong] and the existence [saengmyong] of the publications is precisely the ideology of the leader [suryong]. [applause]

"If revolutionary publications give up on their existence, their destiny would end up with a tragic end and, if the publications rise in revolt, both the country and the revolution would all collapse [manil hyongmyongjok chulpanmulduri chagiui saenmyongul choborimyon ku unmyongun pigukchogin chongmalro kutchangnago, ku chulpanmuri pankirul tulmyon narado hyongmyongdo ta mangchige doemnida]. We must not forget even for a moment the stark reality that the permutations [pyonjil] of publications and press which betrayed the ideas of the leader were precisely the beginning of the social permutations in the former Soviet Union and the East European countries. A decisive guarantee for contributing to firmly defending the fortress of socialism and consummating the cause of chuche by our publications and press under the drastically changing situation today is that we loyally hold the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il in high esteem and ensure that the publication and press follow only his intention and wish."

Mrs. Kim goes on noting the "firm will and invariable pledge" to follow Kim Chong-il, the need to put emphasis on publicizing Kim Chong-il's "greatness of ideologies and theories, greatness of leadership, greatness of achievements, greatness of character," and the need to make journalists a militant rank loyal to Kim Chong-il.

Speaking next, Chon Kyong-su, deputy director of the KOREAN CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, refers to Kim Chong-il as "our great benevolent father Kim Chong-il [uriui widaehan kim chong-il chabunim]." Then, hailing Kim Chog-il's achievements and consideration given to the press sector, he goes on to declare: "As is unanimously emphasized by many comrades at this congress, dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has created the ideology of the great chuche publication and press with his brilliant wisdom and has led the publication and information activities of our party along the single road of victory with his restless efforts is a peerless master [taega] of literature and pen and a great master [kojang] of the press. [applause] Reflecting the earnest wish of our journalists and men of the press and reflecting the unanimous aspiration of the progressive press circles of the world, I cordially and cordially [as heard] propose to uphold [chudae] our dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as an honorary chairman of the KJU."

Speaking after Chon, other speakers all support the proposal to uphold Kim Chong-il as their honorary chairman.

Kim Chong-il Declines Honorary Chair

SK1911112793 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1107 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il sent a letter to the participants in the Seventh Congress of the Korean Journalists Union [KJU] today.

Follows the full text of the letter:

To the participants in the Seventh Congress of the Korean Journalists Union.

I have received a report that the Seventh Congress of the Korean Journalists Union has opened amid deep concern of the journalists, men of the press and people throughout the country and is progressing grandly with a high degree of political enthusiasm.

I am greatly satisfied and pleased with the successful progress of the congress with the active participation of all the delegates.

Hearing news of the congress, I was deeply moved and encouraged by your firm resolution and immensely high revolutionary zeal to carry the cause of socialism to accomplishment with the pen of revolution.

Our journalists and men of the press have been unfailingly loyal to the party and they are now invariably sharing the destiny with the party.

I am deeply grateful to our journalists and men of the press for resolutely supporting the cause of the party, with firm trust in the party, and am greatly rejoiced and proud of having a huge army of journalists and men of the press who are advancing with fortitude along the path of socialism, united closely around the party, without the slightest vacillation under any complicated situation.

I believe that our journalists and men of the press will as in the past, so in the future, too, remain reliable penmen of the party.

I have been informed that many comrades in their speeches at the congress proposed to elect me honorary chairman of the Korean Journalists Union and all the participants expressed support for it. I feel deeply grateful, regarding this as an expression of your deep trust in me.

I have assumed important tasks before the party and the revolution and taken upon myself the heavy duty to devote my all to this important basic duty.

Out of my sense of heavy duty for the party and the revolution, I notify the congress of journalists that I am not in a position to accept your proposal, though I am grateful to you.

The situation prevailing in our country and the heavy tasks facing the party today demand a new turn in the press services.

Our journalists and men of the press standing on the forefront of the party's ideological propaganda are staunch fighters and true penmen of the party who are devotedly working for the accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of chuche, the socialist cause.

I firmly believe that our journalists and men of the press who are unfailingly faithful to the party and the revolution will as ever creditably discharge the honorable revolutionary tasks assigned them by the party, holding tighter the pen of chuche.

I am convinced that the 7th Congress of the Korean Journalists Union will be held with success amid your high enthusiasm.

[Signed] Kim Chong-il
[Dated] November 19, 1993

Journalists Union Congress Ends

SK1911151893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1058 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—The Seventh Congress of the Korean Journalists Union [KJU] which opened here on November 17 closed today, successfully concluding its work.

At the closing session Kim Ki-nam, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, conveyed a letter of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il addressed to the participants in the congress.

The participants in the congress sprang to their feet all at once and burst into enthusiastic cheers of "hurrah", evincing their determination to remain loyal to Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The closing session adopted decisions on the first and second items on the agenda "on the work of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union" and "on the amendment to the rules of the Korean Journalists Union".

Then followed debates on the third agenda item "on the election of the central leadership body of the KJU".

Hyon Chun-kuk was elected chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], KJU.

Appeals to the South Korean journalists, men of the press and to the world's progressive journalists, men of the press were adopted at the congress.

It also adopted a message of pledge to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The congress demonstrated the unshakable faith and will of the Korean journalists and men of the press to carry the revolutionary cause of chuche through to accomplishment, wielding high the pen of revolution under the leadership of the party. It was a historical congress that occasioned a new change in conducting publication and information services in compliance with the new requirements of the developing revolution.

Agricultural Workers Hold Meeting 16-17 Nov

SK1911043193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0410 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 19 (KCNA)—The 21st plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea [UAWPK] was held here on November 16 and 17.

It discussed the tasks of the UAWPK organizations to further strengthen singlehearted unity of the whole society around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the question of thoroughly implementing the decision of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea calling for significantly greeting the 30th anniversary of the publication of the socialist rural theses.

The speakers said that in order to defend the cause of Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses, the revolutionary cause of chuche and carry it to completion, it was necessary to fully establish in the whole society the revolutionary spirit of upholding the party's leadership with loyalty.

They called on all the UAWPK organizations and unionists to vigorously carry on the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, in the countryside and thus contribute to completely implementing the great socialist rural theses.

So Yun-sok Attends Farm Settlement Meeting

SK1711233593 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongwon county's Wonhwa cooperative farm, which upholds the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as honorary members the farm, and which has immortal historic sites of the revolution and their leadership achievements, did this year's farm work well in accordance with the demand of the chuche farming method, thus overfulfilling yearly production plans—at 108 percent for grain, 104 percent for vegetable, 118.5 percent for fruit, 101.9 percent for silk worm, and 102.5 percent for meat.

An annual settlement and distribution meeting was held on 15 November at this farm overflowing with delight for the bumper crop.

Present at the meeting were So Yun-sok, member of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee Political Bureau and responsible secretary of the South Pyongan Provincial Party Committee as well as chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial People's Committee; Kim Nak-hui, chairman of the South Pyongan Provincial Rural Economic Committee; functionaries concerned; and agricultural workers and three revolutions team members of this farm.

At the meeting, the chairman of the farm's management committee delivered a report, which was followed by others' speeches.

After receiving satisfactory allocations, farmers danced over the joy of the bumper crop and gave repeated hurrahs for the great leader and dear comrade leader at the top of their voice.

Annual Settlement Meeting Held at Oyong Farm

SK1711235693 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] On 16 November, an annual settlement and distribution meeting was held at Yonan county's Oyong cooperative farm, which achieved a bumper crop this year under the wise leadership of the great leader and our party.

Agricultural workers of this farm strived to repay the party's and the leader's great consideration with a great success in increasing production. They did farm work in accordance with the chuche farming method and overfulfilled agricultural production plan for this year—at 116 percent for grain, 101.6 percent for vegetable, 113.7 percent for fruit, 112.9 percent for meat, and 102.8 percent for silk worm.

Present at the meeting were Paek Pom-su, responsible secretary of the South Hwanghae Provincial Party Committee and chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial People's Committee; Ho Tok-pok, chairman of the South Hwanghae Provincial Rural Economic Committee; functionaries concerned; and agricultural workers and three revolutions team members of this farm.

At the meeting, the chairman of the farm's management committee delivered a report, which was followed by others' speeches.

A satisfactory share was allotted to each farmer who had finished the year's farm work successfully. While meaningfully marking the 30th anniversary of the presentation of the rural theses, the farmers are thoroug' ly preparing for next year's farming, filled with revolutionary zeal to achieve another rich harvest.

Socialist Youth League Holds Plenary Meeting

SK1811120193 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Pyongyang, November 18 (KCNA)—The third plenary meeting of the C.C. [Central Committee], League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK] was held here on Nov. 16 and 17.

The plenary meeting discussed tasks of LSWYK organizations in further strengthening the singlehearted unity of the whole society around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and more thoroughly establishing within the league the strict discipline of acting as one under the monolithic leadership of the party.

It was noted at the meeting that of importance in strengthening the singlehearted unity of the whole party and society around the dear leader is to make the young people regard his great ideology and theory as the only mental pabulum and world outlook which the heirs to the revolutionary cause of chuche should cherish.

The meeting raised practical measures to fully prepare the LSWYK members and other young people as the reliable youth vanguard of the party who would accomplish the cause of socialism to the end, remaining loyal to the leadership of the dear leader.

South Korea

Deliberations Begin on NAFTA Repercussions

SK1911060493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—The government started on Thursday studying the possible impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on South Korea's exports next year, as the pact creating the world's largest trading bloc was ratified by the U.S. Congress on Wednesday for implementation in January.

Measures to be studied include strengthening the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum and developing the region into an open and free trade zone in order to keep the NAFTA from becoming an exclusive trade club like the European Community, a government official said Thursday.

In addition, corporate investment in Mexico will be encouraged for easier exports to the United States through this NAFTA-signatory country. For this, the government will seek to hold a meeting of the Korea-Mexico Economic Cooperation Committee next February, when Mexico completes establishment of a foreign investment guarantee law.

NAFTA is expected to put a dent in the country's exports to the United States, which account for 26 percent of total exports, it was agreed at a working-level government-industry meeting held at the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry.

Stricter country of origin rules will make it harder for Korean firms to export cars and electronic consumer goods, including color television sets, to the United States through Mexico. Moreover, Korean firms already operating in Mexico will have to shift to NAFTA-area suppliers from their parent firms in Korea for components and parts of these items.

Investment in Mexico by U.S., European and Japanese firms will greatly increase to make the country highly competitive in technology and price not only in the NAFTA market but in other markets.

Dailies Assess Agreement

SK1911124993

[Editorial Report] ROK vernacular newspapers react on 19 November to the 17 November passage by the U.S. Congress of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) bill with articles speculating on the possible effects of NAFTA in world trade and on the Korean economy, editorials calling on the ROK to rise to the challenge that NAFTA poses, and additional articles detailing specific countermeasures, which the private and public sector are pursuing.

The anti-establishment Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean on page 3 carries a 1,000-word article by reporter Kim Chi-sok entitled "World Economy Enters Bloc-Forming Era—Following the EC's Barriers, NAFTA Has Raised More Barriers, and the United States Will Exert Stronger Influence on the Uruguay Round and the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] Meeting."

The editorial says that the "passage of the NAFTA means that the global economy has entered into a bloc-forming era" and that "not Europe or Japan, but the ROK, Taiwan, and other newly industrialized Asian economies will suffer most" from NAFTA's ratification because their industrial structures are similar to Mexico's. The article adds that "U.S. President Clinton will try to make further efforts to realize his plan to combine NAFTA and APEC" following this ratification of the NAFTA bill.

The moderate Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean on 19 November on page 2 carries a 900-word article by reporter Chi Hae-pom anticipating NAFTA's effects on the ROK economy. The article anticipates that "Mexico will become the ROK's strong rival and greatly influence the ROK's export structure," and that the ROK will see a serious decline in ROK exports to the United States, particularly for 24 items that include textile, clothes, motors, and color TV sets.

On a positive note, the article adds that "When NAFTA takes effect, trade among the three North American countries will increase and their demands for imports will also increase with the vitalization of their economies so that from a long-term perspective, our exports may eventually increase."

Based on a study by the Korea Institute for Economics and Technology (KIET), both the moderate Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO on page 8 and the anti-establishment Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN on page 7 carry articles which say that a "serious blow will be dealt" on ROK markets. The 1,000-word CHUNGANG ILBO article by Reporter Nam Yun-ho entitled "Serious Blow Will Be Dealt to the Home Appliance, Auto, and Clothing Industries," says that while these industries will be seriously affected, the semiconductor and computer industry will not and suggests that firms in these industries should invest directly in Mexico to build bridgeheads to the U.S. market, or open new markets elsewhere. The 1,500-word article by Reporter Kim Hyon-tae entitled "Serious Blow To Be Dealt to the Clothing and Shoe Industries" provides specific results of the KIET report. Each year, exports to the United States are predicted to decline 2.36 percent in the steel industry, 2.57 in the nonferrous metals industry, 2.77 percent in the leather industry, 3.77 percent in the shoe industry, and 10.93 percent in the clothing industry. The KIET report concludes that "the only solution is for the ROK to improve the competitive edge of products."

Seoul HANGUK ILBO also carries a 1100-word article by New York-based correspondent Kim Su-chong on page 6 analyzing how the ROK's export markets will be affected by the NAFTA bill. Citing an ROK businessman's remarks that "The ROK textile market faces a crisis of extinction in the United States because ROK products will be priced at 35 percent over Mexico's duty-free products," the article outlines the various disadvantages NAFTA will bring to ROK exports of textile, electronic appliances, and cars to North America, and advises ROK companies to follow Japan's example to "invest in the United States and Mexico in conjunction with companies there."

The economic daily MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN on page 3 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "NAFTA Has Become a Reality."

The editorial says that the passage of NAFTA will "strongly affect U.S. negotiations with the EC" and that the "United States will strengthen its influence on the Uruguay Round [UR] negotiations." The editorial concludes by saying that "our government and businesses must promote close economic cooperation with Mexico and Canada to overcome barriers to our entry into the U.S. markets."

CHOSON ILBO on 19 November on page 3 carries an 800-word editorial regarding the expected situation following the implementation of NAFTA.

Noting that "It is certain that the ratification of NAFTA gave a significant political victory to President Clinton and will serve as a strong driving force in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Seattle and in the UR negotiations," the editorial foresees a "more active and offensive U.S. attitude toward negotiations with the EC, Japan, and Asia."

The editorial notes that "it is unclear if the strong U.S. desire for the practical progress of a conclusion of the UR negotiations in the APEC meeting will be met," pointing out that "if the United States tries to use the exclusive regionalism similar to NAFTA as its stepping-stone, while talking about international ideals such as the extension of free trade and generalization of multilateralism, it would be contradicting itself."

Stressing that APEC's significance to the ROK has grown as the NAFTA bill was passed, the editorial urges the ROK Government to "play a more active and practical role to produce tangible results in the forthcoming APEC meeting."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO in Korean on 19 November on page 3 carries an 800-word editorial entitled "The Challenge by the NAFTA System." The editorial stresses the significance of the ratification of the NAFTA bill by saying "The 17 November passing of the NAFTA bill by the U.S. House of Representatives will be assessed as a symbolic event that decides on a direction of the world order after the end of the Cold War."

The editorial notes that with the U.S. choice of "economic challenge," North America will form a great "exclusive economic bloc" that can be a match for the EC," thus putting great pressure on the ROK's competition with Mexico in the North American market.

Noting that "NAFTA has confirmed the U.S. long-term political aim of remaining as the only superpower in the world," the editorial stresses on "the need for the ROK, which is still kept in the Cold War situation, to urgently set up a new, long-term goal."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN on page 3 carries a 1,000-word editorial entitled "Both Government and People Must Make Efforts To Overcome NAFTA."

The editorial says that the passage of NAFTA has made people "worry about a return to regionalism by the United States, which had espoused free trade within the framework of GATT" and that the "ROK, Taiwan, Singapore, and other newly industrialized Asian economies, not the EC and Japan, will suffer the most." As countermeasures for NAFTA, the editorial says that "we cooperate with all countries of the world to maintain and strengthen the free trade system at all cost" and that "improving our competitive edge is a strong measure to overcome the barrier of regionalism."

MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN also on page 8 carries a 1,800-word article by this newspaper's Industrial Department entitled "Local Businesses' Countermeasures Against NAFTA."

The article examines what each major big business group is doing to cope with NAFTA.

Hyundai: It is planning to examine the previous canceled plan to build automobiles and auto parts plants in Mexico and expand the operation of its office in Mexico City. Hyundai Precision Industries, a Hyundai affiliate, built a container chassis plant in Mexico in 1990.

Samsung: It is planning to expand its offices in Toronto and Mexico City and place them under the control of its North American office in New York.

Lucky-Gold Star: It has begun to operate a NAFTA team in its North American office in New Jersey. It will open a Canadian office to participate in Canada's development of natural resources.

Daewoo: The vice chairman of the Daewoo Heavy Industries visited Mexico last year to discuss the construction of a large industrial complex, a synthetic fiber plant, and an auto parts plant. An agreement was reached in principle.

HANGUK ILBO on 19 November on page 9 carries a 500-word report on the ROK Government's measures to cope with NAFTA, which were released on 18 November. The report says that "the government will expand investments in Mexico, which has an investment environment favorable to the ROK, and conclude agreements with Mexico on preventing double taxation and on guaranteeing investments in each others side," while strengthening its "trade diplomacy with Mexico and other Central and South American countries."

Dec Deadline Reportedly Set on DPRK Issue

SK1911043893 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 19 Nov 93 pp 1, 2

[By reporter Yi Mok-hui]

[Text] It was learned that the government set early December as the tentative deadline to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

A Foreign Ministry official said on 18 November: "Reports by some U.S. media that the U.S. Government is examining the possibility of announcing the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise first and then setting the deadline to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue for February of next year, is not true at all. The governments of the ROK and the United States have continued consultations with each other on the deadline to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue and have agreed that it will be all the better if it is resolved as soon as possible."

This official continued: "There are many views on whether to set the concrete deadline to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue and on announcing it through the ROK-U.S. summit. The government's position is that a decision must be made, either by resolving the North Korean nuclear issue or by carrying out sanctions against the North, at the time when the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] determines that the functions of the nuclear monitoring devices have been completely stopped. The three-stage U.S.-North Korea talks which are being slated for early December is in conformity with this."

In this connection, it was learned that rather than deciding on the deadline to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue artificially, the government is examining the possibility of promoting methods of sanctions against the North through the U.N. Security Council in accordance with the time when the IAEA officially announces that the North's monitoring devices have been exhausted.

It was learned that with the 23 November ROK-U.S. summit near at hand, the two countries are working to reach agreements on whether to set the deadline to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue and on the method and time to announce the Team Spirit exercise which is in accordance with the North's attitude.

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official revealed: "If the three stage U.S.-North Korea talks are held, the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise must be announced before the talks. The ROK and the United States have reached a consensus regarding this matter. The ROK and the United States are concentratedly discussing on what way to announce the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise. This is only when North Korea shows some kind of sincere attitude."

DPRK Reportedly Seeks UN Intercession

SK1911025093 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0200 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] According to Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN dispatched from New York, Pak Kil-yon, North Korean ambassador to the United Nations, strongly requested to the chairman of the United Nations Security Council [UNSC] for the suspension of the ROK-U.S. Team Spirit joint military exercise.

Quoting a UN source, this paper reported that in his meeting with UNSC Chairman Jesus, Ambassador Pak had expressed North Korea's firm position by saying that North Korea cannot allow the ROK-U.S. Team Spirit joint military exercise and that unless the United States stops the exercise, a war will take place.

ASAHI SHIMBUN said that the UNSC Chairman will have a discussion today [19 November] with Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, over the North Korean ambassador's protest.

Ambassador Pak said that compromises should be made by both sides at the same time to conclude the U.S.-North Korean agreement on the North Korean nuclear issue and that North Korea would not make an initial compromise.

Dailies on ROK, U.S. Stands on Nuclear Issue

SK1911104793

[Editorial Report] The moderate CHOSON ILBO and HANGUK ILBO, and the pro-government SEOUL SINMUN publish 800-word editorials on page 3 calling on the ROK and U.S. authorities to try to reconciliate their differences on the North Korean nuclear issue. CHOSON ILBO, noting that there is "a difference of views between the two governments and even within relevant departments of each government," doubts that the United States and the ROK are conducting "close consultations on the North Korean nuclear issue." Recalling that North Korea did not change its stance, even when the Team Spirit exercise was scaled down and suspended, the editorial notes "making unilateral concessions, while revealing that there is a difference of views at a time when no corresponding steps are expected, will only help North Korea buy more time."

Citing a report that President Clinton is to notify the ROK on the 23 November ROK-U.S. summit that the Team Spirit exercise is going to be canceled, HANGUK ILBO says "this is a very unpleasant step [maeu bulkwaehan chosa] given the fact that the ROK and U.S. Governments maintained close cooperation on the basis of the traditional 'relations sealed with blood'." Pointing out that the United States is trying to "solve North Korea's nuclear issue as soon as possible because it is a stumbling block in the U.S. efforts to effectively become an economic leader in Asia with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation as its center," the article says "the ROK will have to assume a burden resulting thereafter," and urges the government "to review and rearrange its policy toward the North so that our own assertions and voices can be clarified."

SEOUL SINMUN expresses concern that "one-sided concession by the United States will make North Korea looks down on the United States as 'a paper tiger'." This newspaper carries on page 4 a 1,200-word article by reporter Yi Mok-hui entitled "There is No Change in ROK-U.S. Cooperation in Handling North Korea's Nuclear Issue." Citing ROK Foreign Ministry officials, the article dismisses recent U.S. media reports that allege that the United States has softened its stance in its policy toward North Korea. It says that such reports on the breakup of the ROK-U.S. cooperation stem from "the voices of moderate U.S. State Department officials that had been delivered to the public without any screening," and predicts "the two sides will spell out again at the 23 November ROK-U.S. summit their stand that the United States and the ROK will declare the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise and that the third round of U.S.-North Korea talks will be held to discuss additional measures, only when North Korea accepts the nuclear inspection at an early date and attend the North-South talks."

Japanese Paper Reports DPRK Experts Purged

SK1911053193 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 19 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Japan's SANKEI SHIMBUN dispatched from Seoul reported on 19 November that North Korean men of influence who had been in charge of policies toward the South were dismissed in succession after the dismissal of former Premier Yon Hyong-muk, who was

downgraded from member to alternate member of the party's Political Bureau in November 1992.

Quoting a source from intelligence authorities in Seoul, SANKEI SHIMBUN reported the above. The paper said "It seems that North Korea has reshuffled officials in charge of policies toward the South as its policy toward the South ended with just signing the two agreements on South-North relations at the end of 1991 and fell short of its expections for economic cooperation with the ROK and for resolving the nuclear issue as it expected."

According to this paper, the source said that Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] who was as an influential man in charge with policies toward the South, was dismissed right after the dismissal of Yon Hyong-muk. It also said that Yun Ki-pok, who was ousted from the post of CPRF vice chairman, was excluded from the list of party secretaries and has been relegated to the chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] Financial Committee.

The source said that Kim Yong-sun, a person close to Kim Chong-il, who once emerged to be a great man of influence as a memeber of the party's Central Committee and a party secretary, has been appointed as chairman of the SPA Reunification Policy Committee. No one knows Kim's activities since he was appointed to the committee chair. The source said that there is a rumor that North Korean experts on the South, including Han Si-hae and Choe Pong-chun, have been purged too.

The source also said that Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Committee of North Korea, has made little moves in recent days.

The source mentioned unconfirmed information that Chon Kum-chol and Yun Ki-pok, whose dismissals have been decided, are involved in farm work now. The source added that new faces in charge of policies toward the South have not yet been learned.

Intelligence 'Sources' Deny Purge

SK1911075693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0712 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] Seoul, Nov. 19 (YONHAP)—Intelligence agency sources said Friday foreign press reports that key officials involved in formulating North Korean policy on South Korea have been replaced or purged are groundless.

The reports, which appeared this week, had said that Chon Kum-chol, vice chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, was fired and that Yun Ki-pok, a former vice chairman of the committee, was relieved of his job as Workers' (Communist) Party secretary and named chairman of the Economic Policy Commission of the Central People's Committee.

They had also said Workers' Party Secretary Kim Yong-sun, who is a member of the party Central Committee, had been in seclusion since he became chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and that Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon, who is also State Planning Commission chairman, was staying in the shadows. But a close check of their movements in recent months revealed no change of status and they continue to play an important role in North Korea, the sources said.

Kim Yong-sun met the general secretary of the Bangladesh Labor Party in Pyongyang on Oct. 6, the secretary general of an Italian Internationai Affairs Institute on Aug. 18 and a mission from the Japanese Socialist Party on May 31. On March 25, he visited Europe as head of the Supreme People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee mission.

Kim has been active as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee since assuming the job in April last year, and was promoted to an alternate member of the Politburo in the 20th plenary meeting in December.

Less than a year ago he was appointed party secretary in charge of South Korean affairs and thus has had no time to do much work. Moreover, North Korea makes it a rule not to publicize activities of party secretaries, especially the secretary in charge of South Korean affairs.

Kim is one of North Korea's few experts on international affairs.

Chon Kum-chol, as vice chairman of the Peaceful Reunification Committee, issued a statement on March 27 expressing his gratitude to South Korean dissidents, including Kim Sang-won, for taking care of Yi In-mo, a guerrilla who was captured during the Korean war. This is evidence that press reports of his dismissal are false.

In December last year, Yun Ki-pok moved from party secretary in charge of South Korean affairs to secretary in charge of educational affairs and he was not fired. It is quite usual for a party secretary to have a government post, and Yun is head of the People's Central Committee Economic Policy Commission.

There is no change in the status of Kim Tal-hyon, vice premier and State Planning Commission head. On Nov. 14 he met with Georgi Nuchansky (phonetic), head of an Austrian business mission, and he is an alternative Politburo member.

The press reports of a purge of key persons involved in South Korea policy are groundless, and there is no change in their status, the sources say.

SKNDF Condemns Government's 'Alert Posture'

SK1911012593 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Statement issued by the spokesman of the South Korea National Democratic Front on 17 November—read by announcer]

[Text] On 17 November, the spokesman of the South Korea National Democratic Front [SKNDF] issued a statement denouncing the declaration of a special alert posture on the entire armed forces under the pretext of coping with the emergency state that may arise during Kim Yong-sam's visit to the United States by finding fault with the North. The text of the statement is as follows:

Statement by the spokesman of the SKNDF:

In a Chongwadae [presidential residence] breakfast meeting on 16 November with all the cabinet members before his departure to the United States, Kim Yong-sam emphasized the security system and maintaining peace and order during his visit to the United States. In addition, the Defense Ministry declared that the entire armed forces go into an emergency alert posture under the pretext of coping with the possible emergency state that may arise during the absence of the prerogative of supreme command of the armed forces by finding fault with the North.

At this time the Foal Eagle-93 ROK-U.S. joint military exercise and the Hwarang exercise being jointly carried out by the civilian, government, and military aimed at the North are being carried out under an actual fighting situation and in a three-dimensional way. Therefore, such a declaration is an extremely dangerous red signal which might ultimately drive the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is faced with the danger of a touch-and-go situation, to war.

The commotion of declaring the emergency alert posture during the absence of the president's visit to the United States is a great political violence unprecedented in the history.

The successive presidents of South Korea unexceptionally visited the United States and Japan to sell the nation. However, this is the first time for a president, like Kim Yong-sam, to declare the emergency alert posture, comparable to an emergency combat alert posture, on the three services of the entire armed forces worrying over his absence.

The declaration of the emergency alert posture clearly shows how much the Kim Yong-sam clique is hostile toward North Korea which is consistently spreading the hands of dialogue and unity. It also made known to the whole world that the political stability of the civilian government, which the Kim Yong-sam clique is constantly promoting, is unstable and cannot even be maintained during his 10-day absence.

The declaration of the emergency alert posture is a manifestation of Kim Yong-sam's apprehension and nervousness that a coup d'etat may occur any time by the forces of the Fifth and Sixth Republics. It is also a scheme to put the breaks on the lord and master, the United States, from realizing reunification talks without them.

After perpetrating various reckless and provocative military exercises across South Korea, including the area along the Military Demarcation Line, at the same time, the Kim Yong-sam cliques ordered emergency alert posture to the entire armed forces in the pretext of the absence of the president. This is nothing but a struggle by the political gamblers who acknowledged, at the hour of death, that their civilian politics is going bankrupt and that there is no future for them.

The SKNDF and our people solemnly denounce Kim Yong-sam cliques' recent declaration of emergency alert posture by branding it as atrocious fascist violence designed to deter explosion of accumulated public wrath by binding hands and feet of the people of various strata who have endured their suppression for a long time and as an unpopular war declaration openly professing challenge to the people.

The Kim Yong-sam cliques, under the codename of the civilian regime, have drove the wind of reform up to now in order to mend fences [chibanul tajigiwihae] for Chongwadae, and our popular masses have gained no favor at all in the course. Even though the civilian regime has set sail, the colonial rule and fascist tyranny are rampant in our land, national confrontation and disintegration are being pursued, and the popular masses' murmur of grievance are soaring to the sky.

The people who made expectation out of and supported the civilian regime are turning their backs against the regime saying that it is no different from previous regimes.

The Kim Yong-sam cliques have completely lost the support of the people from their misrule and tyranny for the last nine months. In addition, the cliques have further revealed their true color as an unpopular civilian-led fascist regime by declaring emergency alert posture as a last means of preventing the popular masses' strangling, which is due to come someday.

The Kim Yong-sam cliques may tide over a crisis by declaring so-called emergency alert posture this time. However they will not be able to prolong its vitality any longer amid the popular masses' rejection.

Even if a super emergency alert posture which is a hundredfold of the emergency alert posture is declared, the SKNDF and our people will vigorously march on the road of independence, democracy, and reunification without restlessness.

[Dated] 17 November 1993, Seoul

Cambodia

Ministry Reports on Military, Other Developments

BK1811073393 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] A news conference was held on the morning of 17 November at the Information Ministry under the chairmanship of Sieng Lapresse, adviser to the information minister.

Sieng Lapress spoke on new developments in the Kingdom of Cambodia in military, diplomatic, economic, and various other fields.

Concerning the military situation, Sieng Lapresse stressed that in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, seven Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked and destroyed a bridge with landmines at Chong Kal. In the attack, they killed 13 inhabitants. Also in November, the Khmer Royal Armed Forces encircled a Khmer Rouge position in Angkor Chey District of Kampot Province and killed a Khmer Rouge soldier. In Preah Vihear Province, 30 Khmer Rouge soldiers robbed inhabitants at Rumdaoh Khang Tbong village in Choam Khsan District, seizing 13 oxen and burning down 12 houses and 12 metric tons of paddy.

On the diplomatic field, Sieng Lapresse revealed that a German parliamentary delegation will pay a visit to Cambodia from 18 November to the end of the month. A delegation from Ireland will also pay a visit to Cambodia from 23 to 26 November.

Concerning the economy, he said that although the value of the riel has not changed, the price of goods is still high, thus causing inflation inside the country.

On the government's stance, he said the government still keeps the door open for the Khmer Rouge to return to negotiations. At the same time, the royal government has appealed to the Khmer Rouge to stop their attacks, criticism, and idea of dividing the country into two parts.

Rice Shortage Predicted in Prey Veng

BK1811131693 Phnom Penh AKP in English 1003 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Phnom Penh AKP November 18—Agronomists in Prey Veng Province predicted lower rice output in the province in the coming harvest season because of the irregular rainfall in the early rainy season and heavy rains in the late season.

In the previous years the average rice yield harvested, around 200,000 ha [hectares], was no more than 1.2 tons per hectare, therefore the province met with rice shortage of 18,000 tons yearly.

They said rice shortage in Prey Veng this year could be more than that.

Only five districts: Peam Ro, Sithor Kandal, Kanchchriech, Mesang and Baphnum, among the 12 districts in the province could have enough rice for the people as they have large arable land and less population.

Fertility of soil becomes lower and lower as rice stalks after the harvest were usually burnt or gathered for use as fire-wood and farmers have given up organic fertilizer and adopted chemical fertilizer in replacement, they said.

Water supply for rice cultivation is another problem, the agronomists said. Prey Veng has only one big-sized irrigation project which is capable of storing one million cubic metres of water, they said, adding that several other small-sized projects are unavailable.

"We wish to make the province self-reliance in water supply for the cultivation; arable land more fertile; and introduce modern cultivation technics to the farmers, but that was only the thought as we lacked money," the agronomists said.

UN Releases Radio Station to Sihanoukville

BK1711122793 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Khim Bo, governor of Sihanoukville, recently met with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] personnel and representatives of the ministries of posts and information to prepare and sign documents concerning the handover and reception of material and equipment from the UNTAC radio station in Sihanoukville, which UNTAC has handed over to the royal government of the Kingdom of Cambodia after the end of UNTAC's mandate in Cambodia.

UNTAC representatives requested that leading officials in Sihanoukville take immediate and detailed measures to protect the equipment. Khim Bo thanked UNTAC for handing over this radio station to the Royal Government of Cambodia and affirmed that he will task the care of the equipment and cooperate with the Information Ministry to use the station to disseminate information to people in Sihanoukville.

Indonesia

Two Battalions Withdrawn From East Timor

BK1911053293 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 18 Oct 93 p 5

[Text] Dili, KOMPAS—Battalion 510 from Kostrad [Regional Military Command] has been officially withdrawn from East Timor. The withdrawal was the implementation of the statement issued by the 9th Udayana regional commander, Major-General Theo Syafei,

during the 48th Armed Forces Day anniversary in Dili on Tuesday 5 October based on the improving situation in East Timor.

The 510 Battalion was relieved of its duties on 6 October during a ceremony by the Commander of the 164 Wira Dharma Military Command, Colonel (Infantry) Johnny J Lumintang, while Battalion 507 will be relieved of its duties on Tuesday this week.

Lumintang clarified that territorial operations were directed at providing assistance to the district authorities in hastening the development process for people's well-being. Johnny Lumintang said, "Basically, a soldier is trained to protect and repulse all forms of threat so the community can live in continuous peace. It would not come as a surprise if the community showed its continuous gratitude."

The commander reminded the 510 Battalion personnel to maintain and improve their discipline, which forms the basis for their future achievements. This is so because the battalion's success is not only measured in terms of its operational experience but on the discipline of its personnel.

Commentary Previews Seattle APEC Summit

BK1911041393 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The two-day multilateral national leaders and the leaders of the Asia-Pacific joint working forum in Seattle, the United States, felt that a declaration would be issued on cooperation in trade and investment among the member countries.

The ministerial-level APEC meeting from 17 to 19 November 1993 was not marred by heated arguments. They accepted the Seattle declaration in principle as the base toward intensifying economic cooperation among APEC members. In fact, the heated arguments on the concept occurred two months ago at the senior ministers meeting in Honolulu.

At that meeting, the Southeast Asian nations were unanimously opposed to the developed nations' concept of an agreement to be issued at the Seattle summit. Indonesia was the first to reject such a concept and the other ASEAN member countries followed suit. Indonesia's attitude was based on a decision to establish APEC in the middle of 1980. Indonesia stressed that APEC should take the form of a broad informal and consultative forum.

Therefore, if that agreement is issued at the Seattle summit, laws and regulations will be codified that could thus eliminate the objective of keeping APEC an informal forum.

Australia and New Zealand were the two major countries who were strongly opposed to ASEAN's attitude during the senior ministers meeting in Honolulu.

Canada then offered a compromise which was finally adopted—to change the term "agreement" to "declaration." This term would not faze the members. ASEAN member countries definitely wanted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum to function as an absolute consultative and economic cooperation forum in an effort to increase its capability of mutual analysis and cooperation in certain fields which could provide more benefits.

Indonesia, along with its other ASEAN member countries, definitely does not want a constitutional type of cooperation to exist within APEC—similar to that of a trade bloc—because free trade (?limitations) among APEC members would definitely deprive the developing nations of being competitive and thus could prove to be nonbeneficial. In fact, one of the bases agreed upon when APEC was established was the need for such cooperation in an effort to further reinforce the members' economic position, whether cumulatively or on an individual basis. Such cooperation should be implemented in a pragmatic manner, on a stage-by-stage basis, and in alignment with developments.

Iranian Ambassador Refutes Sales Allegations

LD1811204993 Tehran IRNA in English 2016 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Nov. 18, IRNA—Iran's ambassador to Jakarta Seyyed Asghar Qoreyshi Thursday refuted allegations by the Western media that the Islamic Republic was getting military hardware from Indonesia. He said Iran has never offered to buy military hardware from Indonesia. He added, however, that Indonesian-made helicopters that had been purchased by Iran were not really military-related items.

The Iranian ambassador commented that the Islamic Republic had frequently demonstrated her commitment to international conventions. He said during his visit to Tehran, next week, Indonesian President Suharto would most probably discuss the issue of Muslims and the Zionist regime, Tehran-Jakarta relations, as well as other topics of mutual interest.

Qoreyshi commented that as members of the Non-Aligned Movement Iran and Indonesia enjoyed very good relations, and observed that the scheduled visit to Tehran this Tuesday would expectably further solidify their ties.

Factory Workers, Students Stage Protests

BK1811175393 Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN in Indonesian 2 Nov 93 p 6

[Text] Surabaya, 2 Nov—Two workers' strikes took place in East Java on Monday, 1 November. One of the strikes was carried out by hundreds of factory workers

from PT [Company Limited] Wangta Agung (WA) located on Simo Pomahan Road, and the other was by hundreds workers from the PT Jadi Abadi Corak Biscuits (Jacob) factory workers on Kalirungkut road. Several university students also staged a demonstration demanding the expulsion of the Sampang mayor for his inability to prevent the occurrence of a bloody incident in Nepa, where villagers were protesting the construction of an irrigation dam in the area.

The one-day strikes were held separately at the two factories, whose workers are mostly women. The strikers demanded from their employers an improvement in the social security scheme so that it is in accordance with Labor Law No. 3/1992. They also demanded that women workers be exempted from working night shifts and be entitled to menstruation leave.

One of the several posters that were displayed by the PT WA shoe factory workers read "Dissolve the SPSI [All Indonesian Workers Union], the Manpower Department is a fake institution, Manpower Department should carry out its responsibility." The workers also yelled their sharp criticism of the factory's management group.

The nature of the workers' strike by hundreds of women workers from the biscuit factory is similar to that of the strike by the shoe factory workers. Apart from yelling and jeering the factory owner for the absence of sufficient fringe benefits and menstruation leave for workers, they also criticized the enforcement of over regulated industrial ethics. They waved posters that said "Hello Personnel Department. Where is your responsibility toward the workers; is it human to grant menstruation leave only after the worker has fainted and while the factory is wealthy, the workers are suffering?"

Meanwhile, about 75 students from several private, and state-owned institutions of higher learning in East Java province who called themselves the Students Committee for Solidarity with the Victims of the Bloody Nepa Incident, KSMPNB, staged a protest outside the provincial governor's office in Surabaya. They carried posters calling on Basofi Sudirman, East Java governor, to expel Infantry Colonel H. Bagus Hinayana, mayor of Sampang, for being responsible for the outbreak of the bloody incident at the Nepa dam site.

The student protest demonstration lasted for two hours and was dispersed after they held a dialogue session with Dr. [Master of Arts] Suprapto, deputy governor. The highlight of their dialogue was to urge the East Java governor to take fair action against those who were responsible for the death of four villagers in Sampang during a clash between demonstrating villagers who opposed the construction of the Nepa dam and government authoritries last September. They said that if the police chief, military division commander, police inter-area commander, military rayon commander were replaced, the area's mayor, who is their "manager," should be dismissed, too.

Pollution Problems Feared After Deregulation

BK1711143893 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 5 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—A senior environmental expert is warning that the government's recent deregulation package, which encourages industrialized nations to relocate their operations into Indonesia, may turn the country into a "dump".

Otto Sumarwoto said that bringing old industrial equipment into Indonesia will not only cause pollution problems, but will also be economically inefficient.

"Moreover, the public's growing concern on environmental problems will become a threat to the operation of such old industrial facilities. Their products can, in the long run, be also completely rejected on the international markets," Otto said referring to the government's new investment policy, which is partly designed to attract the sunset industries of more developed nations into Indonesia.

The importation of second hand plant-equipment was previously banned in Indonesia, but has been made possible by the new package. He warned that the government should be more cautious in licensing such old industries, as their operations will not only cause environmental problems but also create a high cost economy.

"Their operations will not only be inefficient but are also under a threat in the long term, in line with the public's growing concern about environmental problems," he said.

He said the government should have a long-term perspective in drawing a policy so that its negative impacts can be minimized.

The government, as part of the deregulatory measures issued last month, also allows foreign investors to own 100 percent of the equity of an industrial company producing intermediary products, raw materials and semi finished products, with paid-up capital of only US$2 million.

Minister of Industry Tunk Ariwibowo said the move is an important breakthrough taken by the government to attract the relocation of industries from more developed nations.

The restriction on the importation of second hand machinery equipment and other capital goods was abolished as part of the government's package to encourage the relocation of more developed nations' industries into the country.

Otto estimated that industries relocated into Indonesia will survive only within five years because after that period they will no longer be able to compete due to their rising production costs.

Philippines

Ramos Shows 'Gladness' Over NAFTA Passage

BK1911043093 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 19 Nov 93

[Text] In Houston, Texas, President Ramos expressed gladness that advocates of the North America Free Trade Agreement or NAFTA led by President Bill Clinton prevailed in the lower house voting of the U.S. Congress. The NAFTA issue was hotly debated in the United States. President Clinton had to use his clout to persuade solons to vote for NAFTA.

NAFTA is the response to the United States... [pauses] rather NAFTA is the response of United States, Mexico and Canada to the European single market. Under it, there will be a free flow of goods among the three-member countries.

Approval by the U.S. House of Representatives of NAFTA is held timely because the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation or APEC meeting of leaders hosted by Clinton in Seattle on 19 and 20 November. In that summit 15 heads of government will be attending. Among the 15 are the six leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

President Ramos as an ASEAN leader has openly proposed a free flow of trade between ASEAN and NAFTA. The Philippine president believes that the dismantling of trade barriers could help third world countries develop economically.

During an interview with ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION at the Ritz Carlton Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, President Ramos indicated his support for NAFTA.

When he invited former... [pauses] rather when he visited former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, he also expressed his support for NAFTA. During that meeting, Carter gave a copy of a letter signed by five former U.S. presidents supporting the NAFTA position of President Clinton. The former presidents were George Bush, Ronald Reagan, Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon.

Those opposed to NAFTA in the house maintained that instead of achieving free trade, the regional organization would result in more trade restrictions. These congressmen cited the volumious document of NAFTA containing so many dont's.

NDF Seeks 'Belligerency' Status From SRV

BK1911010893 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 17 Nov 93 pp 1, 6

[By Redempto Anda]

[Text] The National Democratic Front (NDF) is deliberately dragging its feet on the holding of the second round of exploratory talks with the government apparently to buy time while secretly trying to secure a status of belligerency from Vietnam, which would be hosting the talks, a government peace negotiator charged yesterday.

Rep. Jose Yap, a member of the government peace panel, said that NDF negotiator Luis Jalandoni has written to the Vietnamese government and apparently expects that the response will address the NDF as a coequal of the Philippine government.

Yap said the government panel was not furnished a copy of the letter and that the Vietnamese government has not issued any response to it.

"The ball is in their (NDF's) court. But I'm pretty sure that the talks will push through," Yap said.

He explained that the NDF may be seeking a formal invitation from Vietnam "for no particular reason but to be able to say that it is being considered a belligerent force."

The issue of belligerency has hounded government efforts to smoothen the process of formal peace negotiations with the NDF. In all occasions, Manila has flatly rejected giving recognition to the NDF as belligerent force.

President Ramos had earlier issued a memorandum instructing the Philippine panel to negotiate with the NDF using the framework of the Constitution. This was rejected by the NDF, which accused the government of "insincerity."

Yap, however, expressed confidence that the Vietnamese government will not make any gesture which will be interpreted by the international community as giving belligerency status to the NDF.

"Not at this time when the most important thing for them is the lifting of economic sanctions by the United States. Vietnam will just provide venue for the talks. It does not want to have anything to do with it," Yap said.

Israel To Assist in Military Modernization

BK1511112793 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Israel is ready to help the Philippines in its armed forces modernization program. This was revealed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to President Fidel Ramos in New York.

[Begin recording in English] [David Jude Santa Ana, identified by caption] Filipino companies will be allowed to participate in the construction of new settlement in the soon-to-be-created Palestinian state. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and President Fidel Ramos exchanged views on the Middle East peace process and the possible peace dividends which can be reaped by the Philippines.

The two leaders, both former paratroopers, had a frank and cordial discussion about concerns in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Talks focused mainly on the Israeli-PLO accord; possible Israeli investments in the Philippines, especially at the Clark Special Economic Zone; and trade. A visibly happy Mr. Ramos took a walk outside his hotel in New York after his meeting with the Israeli prime minister.

[Ramos] Very positive and very fruitful, since we are good friends from way back.

[Santa Ana] Mr. Ramos said the success of the Israeli-PLO peace process will bolster the Philippines' own chances on forging peace with the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front].

Mr. Ramos and Mr. Rabin knew each other since the late 1950's, when the Israeli prime minister—then a paratrooper—visited Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, where Captain Fidel Ramos was assigned to the Army's Special Forces. Both men also exchanged invitations for them to visit each other's country soon.

In the past, the Philippines has been cautious about its ties with Israel as Israel has affected relations with the Arab states. But with the PLO-Israeli accord, the objective now is to strengthen ties with both the Arab states and Israel. [end recording]

$4.5 Billion Trade Deficit for Third Quarter

BK1911020893 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 17 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The country's trade shortfall swelled to $4.525 billion in the first nine months of the year, widening by 33.76 percent from a deficit of $3.383 billion in the same period the previous year.

In a press release, the National Statistics Office [NSO] yesterday reported that total imports in January to September reached $12.644 billion from $10.609 billion in 1992. Exports in the same period added up to $8.119 billion from last year's $7.226 billion.

Cumulatively, imports grew 19.18 percent in the period; exports increased at a slower rate of 12.36 percent.

In the month of September alone, the trade gap stood at $548 million with import expenditures totalling $1.563 billion and export receipts at $1.015 billion.

Compared with their trade levels in August, September imports were 4.9 percent higher and exports, 3.26 percent more. But on a yearly basis, the increments were bigger: imports by as much as 16.99 percent from $1.336 billion; exports by 16.26 percent from $873 million.

The principal import commodities were electronics and components ($205.68 million); power-generating and specialized machines ($188 million); mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials ($149.70 million); transport equipment ($141.12 million); and telecommunications equipment ($104.34 million). These five accounted for 50 percent of the country's total purchases during the month, the NSO noted.

Top export commodities were electronics and components ($228.27); articles of apparel and clothing accessories ($205.50 million); woodcraft and furniture ($43.11 million); coconut oil ($42.78 million); and cathodes ($29.41 million).

As of press time, 79 out of 33,612 export documents and 40 out of 38,574 import papers for September were still unprocessed.

Thailand

Government, Business Reaction to NAFTA Bill

Spokesman Terms NAFTA 'Beneficial'

BK1811141493 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai had a dinner with Thai officials and journalists at Sea Garden Seafood Restaurant at 1845 in Seattle. During the dinner, the Thai Ambassador to Washington, M.L. Phiraphong Kasemsi, informed the prime minister that the U.S. Congress had approved the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA.

Government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwat said that the establishment of NAFTA will be beneficial to Thailand and other countries if the United States, Canada, and Mexico do not impose tax barriers against imports from other countries. Aphisit said:

[Begin recording] We have to see their stances towards other countries outside the grouping. It will be good if they do not impose tax barriers for products from other countries. I believe that in the future there will be closer coordination among free trade groupings and more openings in market access for other countries when more regional trade groupings are formed. [end recording]

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai is scheduled to meet with prominent foreign leaders on 18 November. His meeting with PRC President Jiang Zemin is expected to follow up the issues which had been discussed during the prime minister's recent visit to China and to discuss the progress of the quadrangle economic development project between Thailand, China, Burma, and Laos. His meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is expected to discuss political developments in both countries. Thailand will thank the Japanese Government for buying rice from Thailand. Commenting on Japan's plan to open up its rice market, the government spokesman said that this is a complicated issue and can have an impact on the internal politics of Japan.

Businesses Fear Effects

BK1811022593 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Nov 93 p B14

[Text] Thai businesses are holding their breath ahead of Wednesday's U.S. Congress vote on the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta). They fear that if Nafta is approved, they will end up selling fewer products to North America. Moreover, the new trade area will divert investment by Japan, Taiwan and South Korea from Southeast Asian countries to Mexico to take advantage of Nafta privileges.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday released a list of 40 Thai export items which might be affected by the North American free trade pact, which is expected to create the world's largest free trade area with 360 million consumers and a U.S.$6 trillion market.

The list includes automatic data processing machines, electronic integrated circuits, video recorders, footwear, articles of jewellery, precious stones and toys, which American buyers are likely to shun in favour of Mexican products which will carry a zero tariff rate.

A "yes" vote on Nafta would pave the way for the United States, Canada and Mexico, from the beginning of next year, to eliminate tariff barriers among the three within a 15-year period.

The three countries have also come up with a strict rule of origin to define a "Nafta product," under which automotive products should have at least 62.5 per cent Nafta content.

In textiles, Nafta stipulates that a Nafta product should be made from Nafta yarn, Thai officials explained.

Foreign Ministry officials, however viewed that the tariff cuts under Nafta are not important. "It will make no difference, as half of Mexican imports are now enjoying the zero tax rate under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences tax concession programme," an official said.

The official's concern, indeed, lies in the possibility that what the three countries have agreed upon will affect multilateral discussions at Gatt's next round.

The Nafta pact includes side agreements on the protection of workers and the environment, and the protection of the U.S. agricultural and industrial sectors from imports.

"Nafta is the first ever trade pact to accommodate the possibility of trade sanctions out of environmental concern," the official said.

One of the side agreements, initiated by the Clinton administration, allows the Nafta members to impose trade sanctions on any member which fails to protect the environment and workers' rights.

The environmental issue has been, to date, irrelevant to the Gatt multilateral trade talks. But if the issue is to be included in the Gatt, a Commerce Ministry official said, it would create a loophole for countries to discriminate against imports on the basis of abstract environmental concerns.

"The Gatt talks would be complicated, as how can you judge the level of protection of environmental and human rights," he asked.

Canada and Mexico have also felt uneasy with the side agreement on the environment in the Nafta pact. They viewed the side agreement as counter to the principle of free trade. To make matters worse, Mexico felt it was the target of the pressure.

Apart from the environmental and labour protection, Nafta also requires the protection of intellectual property rights at a standard higher than the Gatt rules.

Mexico will, then, have to upgrade its standards on intellectual property protection, including the protection of computer software, with no conditions.

Officials Urge Businesses To Prepare

BK1911130093 Bangkok THE NATION in English 19 Nov 93 pp B1, B2

[Text] The Thai government, as well as businesses, yesterday welcomed the affirmative vote on the North American free trade pact as paving the way for the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks by the December 15 deadline, Finance Minister Tharin Nimmanhemin said. But once the glow of victory wears off, Thai officials have urged Thai businesses, especially canned tuna and textile exporters to prepare themselves for possible business diversions as fallout from the trade pact, which is expected to highlight Mexico on the map of foreign investments.

With the 234-200 vote, the United States House of Representatives approved the trade pact joining the United States, Mexico and Canada into the world's largest trading bloc—a single US$6 trillion free trade zone under the so-called North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta).

The accord would create a continental free-trade zone by gradually eliminating tariffs over 15 years. All industries would be affected, from fruits and vegetables to banking and automobiles.

Thai officials are however playing down the possible impact from potentially lessened Thai-American trade. Instead they insist that Nafta be perceived as a positive symbol toward a successful Uruguay Round.

"It sent a positive signal to Gatt (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Round... and Thailand's priority is to see Gatt [come to a positive] conclusion," Tharin said.

Deputy Finance Minister Trairong Suwankhiri stated the 'yes' vote will strengthen President Clinton's position into forcing the European Union to cut farm subsidies in order to conclude the Gatt talks.

"Americans have been calling for a free trade system, and this time, they have demonstrated their true intention," Trairong said.

With the conclusion of the Round, "The United States will realize that it is no longer necessary to press ahead with the creation of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) free trade area (an idea which Thailand has already rejected)," he said. Trairong cautioned however, that Thai industries would, to a certain extent, be affected by the advent of Nafta, especially Thai canned tuna exports, because importers would prefer to shift their production base to Mexico in order to enjoy Nafta privileges.

Dr Thirana Phongmakaphat, chief adviser to Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak estimated Nafta would cost Thai industry about U.S.$100-U.S.$200 million—the total possible figure for Asean as a whole being estimated around U.S.$500 million. Dr Thirana mentioned that, by comparison, Korea stands to face losses of U.S.$1 billion.

"Nafta will mostly affect the Asian Newly Industrialized countries and Asean, whose level of economic development is similar to Mexico," he explained.

Ambassador-Head of EC Delegation to Thailand Gwyn Morgan yesterday welcomed the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement by the US House of Representatives.

"The EC is fully supportive of such regional groupings since the EC itself is a prime example," Morgan told THE NATION.

"We hope it enhances the well-being of the citizen of Nafta countries and world trade—including trade with the EC," he said.

The French Embassy in Thailand however refused to comment, saying that it prefers to wait until official reaction came from Paris. France has been known as the country adamantly opposed to the US-EC Blair House deal, the farm trade pact which stalled Gatt's Uruguay Round for several weeks.

Karun Kittisathaphon, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Commerce, expressed concern that if the United States manages to expand Nafta membership, it would hurt the open multilateral trading system being pursued by Thailand.

Nafta includes provisions for market access and requirements on intellectual property protection standards which are higher than those demanded by Gatt.

Nafta also has provisions on the environment and the status of labour movements, which would affect labour-intensive Thai industries, Prayun Taloengsi, executive director of the Board of Trade, said.

Nafta sets strict rules of origin. For instance, it requires at least 62.5 per cent intra-Nafta content in the automotive sector and stipulates that the 'Made-in-Nafta' product label may only be used for textiles and apparel made out of Nafta yarn. However, Prayun does not expect Nafta to deal a serious blow to Thai industries, although the North American market represents 22-23 per cent of Thai exports. "Mexican industries can not immediately replace our exports as they are behind Thai industries," he said.

Wichai Siprasoet of Rice Land International Co Ltd, an exporter of rice, said that although principle behind Nafta is to eliminate cross-border barriers on agriculture, the Nafta governments will find it difficult in reality to do so due to domestic political motivations. Mexico is now an importer of Thai rice. Wichai said there should be no problems for continued Thai exports, as the price of one ton of American rice is now U.S.$100 higher than Thai rice.

"We will only be unable to compete if the U.S. government provides additional subsidies to their farmers," he explained.

MR Pridiyathon Thewakun, president-designate of the Exim Bank, said that the advent of Nafta will move the international community towards breaking into trading blocs.

"The passage of Nafta is a catalyst [which ought] to prompt Asean to be more serious about implementing Afta (the Asean Free Trade Area)," he said.

Pridiyathon said if no other regional grouping offers competitive business incentives, foreign investment will certainly be flowing to Nafta.

Andreas Schlapfer, managing director of Nestle (Thailand) Ltd hailed the outcome of the Nafta vote as an impetus to the successful conclusion of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt). The Nestle group is the biggest food and beverage company in the world. The Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiation cannot afford to collapse, since this will create chaos for world trade, said Andreas. As a multinational firm, Nestle supports any agreement facilitating world trade, he said. From the point of view of Thai industries, Andreas believed that most of industrial sectors will not be affected.

He admitted that labour-intensive industries will have to face up to stronger competition than before from Mexican competitors. He pointed out that increased competition will force Thai industries to speed up their product development and process improvement.

Minister Urges Support for Ozone Protection

BK1711010093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] DEPUTY Industry Minister Phonthep Techaphaibun yesterday urged developed countries

which are parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer to help replenish the Multilateral Fund. Financial assistance is essential for developing countries' efforts to phase out their use of ozone-depleting substances, he asserted.

The Montreal Protocol is an international agreement on the protection of ozone layer which filters the harmful ultraviolet rays from reaching the earth's surface.

K.M. Sarma, Coordinator of the Ozone Secretariat, told participants at the Preparatory Meeting of the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol—which opened in Bangkok yesterday—that contributions to the Multilateral Fund are still behind pledges.

Speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Mr Sarma urged the Governments of the countries which "could pay but did not pay" to make their contributions as soon as possible.

Mr Phonthep, in his opening speech, said the provision of adequate funding is important to developing countries constrained by their technologies and financial resources in eliminating the production and consumption of ozone-destroying chemicals.

Thailand is listed in the so-called Article 5 Paragraph 1 countries which are eligible for financial assistance from the Multilateral Fund for projects to phase out the use of substances that damage the ozone layer.

Mr Phonthep said the Thai Government has already taken various measures to discourage the use of such substances, including promoting public awareness on the danger of ozone destruction and encouraging people to help save the ozone.

Mr Sarma said the requirements of the Multilateral Fund for 1994, 1995 and 1996 are a vital issue of discussion at the Bangkok meeting.

According to Mr Sarma, it has already been agreed that the requirement for the next three years will be between $US340 and 500 million.

He stressed this requirement must be met so developing countries can achieve their goals of phasing out their use of ozone damaging substances as early as possible.

"The less cash we put in now, the more the consumption of the developing countries will increase. And ultimately it is the contributors to the Fund who have to bear the burden of the cost of phasing out a much larger quantity of the controlled substances," he said.

Mr Sarma said although there have been reports that the Montreal Protocol is working splendidly and that the extent of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), a chief ozone-eating agent, is coming down as control measures take effect, he still did not want the people to be complacent. "This is not the time to pat ourselves on the back and assume that we have succeeded in our task," he said.

Mr Sarma said the news about the ozone layer continues to be depressing.

In 1992, the Antarctic hole was at its largest and ozone has been depleted by 60 per cent. The destruction was also significant in the northern latitudes. In 1993, the record low ozone values over Antarctica reported in September were the lowest ever reported for that month. These values have continued into early October, he said.

Vietnam

Joint Vietnam-U.S. MIA Search Concludes

BK1811151593 Hanoi VNA in English 1354 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 18—The 26th joint Vietnam-U.S. search for American servicemen missing during the Vietnam war conducted in a number of provinces from October 21 to November 16. [sentence as received]

Investigations and excavations on-the-spot gathered more information and body remains, helping shed more light to the fate of many American servicemen reported missing.

In the said period, Vietnamese and U.S. specialists continued investigating discrepancy cases, interviewed officials who had possibly known about the MIA issue, investigated a number of cases where American servicemen had died while being kept before 1973 in southern provinces and processed information at the joint MIA Document Center in Hanoi and some military zone museums. In the time under review, specialists of the two countries conducted investigation into 'live-sighting' reports in Minh Hai province and no evidence was found that any American left by the war was still alive there.

The U.S. side highly appreciated the cooperation offered by the Vietnamese local authorities and people for the search.

Le Duc Anh Receives Head of 'Operation Smile'

BK1811152193 Hanoi VNA in English 1442 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 18—President Le Duc Anh received here today a delegation of the U.S. Operation Smile International led by Dr. William Magee, founder and president of the organization, currently on a visit to Vietnam. Dr. William Magee informed the Vietnamese leader of his organization's activities which, he said, had helped bring back smiles to many children in the world including thousands of Vietnamese children. The Operation Smile International also provided training for dozens of young doctors and encouraged hundreds of professors doctors and technicians of the United States

and other countries to come and join Vietnamese colleagues in plastic surgery for handicapped children. Speaking to his guests, President Le Duc Anh expressed his thanks to the Operation Smile International, and through it to the American people, for their active humanitarian activities offered to children all over the world, in general, and in Vietnam, in particular. He also expressed his belief that the humanitarian activities of the Operation Smile International in Vietnam would contribute to promoting the friendship between the people of Vietnam and the United States. Also present at the reception were Head of the President's Office Hoang Tuan and President of Vietnam Operation Smile Association Prof. Dr. Nguyen Huy Phan.

Phan Van Khai Discusses Donors Conference

BK1811144993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 18 Nov 93

["Excerpt" of interview with Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai by an unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] The result of the Paris donors' conference has been highly valued, and the conference praised the remarkable example of Vietnam's success in economic reform. Can you elaborate on such view?

[Phan Van Khai, in Vietnamese fading into superimposed English translation] There was a recognition at the Paris conference that Vietnam is successful in its renovation and that Vietnam has overcome heavy odds to go forward. In recent years, the country's economy has changed considerably. Vietnam's foreign policy is correct. Vietnamese leaders have made several visits to other countries and vice versa. This testifies to the foreign policy of Vietnam to befriend other countries. We withdrew troops from Cambodia and normalized relations with China. All this has raised Vietnam a lot and it's true that Vietnam has set an example of renovation without foreign aid.

[Reporter] The world press says the Paris donors conference leaves the United States more on a limb. Do you have any comments on this?

[Phan Van Khai] The Paris conference did not intend to isolate the United States. But it's the United States which stood away from the conference. This shows that the U.S. trade embargo is only effective against the American companies. Companies of other countries have relations with Vietnam.

[Reporter] Experience shows when that provided with U.S.$1 million in foreign aid, the recipient country should also prepare U.S.$1 million to implement projects. What preparations is Vietnam making?

[Phan Van Khai] Well. That's true. However, Vietnam is still very poor so it can only contribute from 20 to 30 percent to each project. By the year 2000, Vietnam will strive to contribute 50 percent in joint ventures. I hope that to develop the country, we should rely on ourselves. Nevertheless, the renovation process will be developed more quickly with foreign assistance. Vietnam tries to avoid loans because you have to think of paying the debts. That's not at all comfortable.

[Reporter] The $1.8 billion aid from the donors' conference is for 1993-1994 fiscal years. Is there any sign of further foreign aid to Vietnam, as from now to the year 2000 we need another $40 billion?

[Phan Van Khai] We will receive further foreign aid if our renovation is a success. In reality, due to the success of our renovation so far, we have received foreign aid. Japan has provided us with $550 million, and it has pledged $3.3 billion aid to certain projects in 1994-1995. The World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other countries have also committed to aid Vietnam if we use this aid effectively.

[Reporter] Why was the Paris donors' conference organized, and who sponsored this conference?

[Phan Van Khai] Plans for the conference was made a long time ago. But due to the U.S. embargo, it was unable to be organized. But after the United States lifted its ban on the International Monetary Fund, the conference was able to be held. The UNDP [United Nations Development Program], France, and some other countries were the conference's sponsor. However, I want to emphasize that if the renovation process in Vietnam was not successful, there could have been no such conference.

Spokesperson Critical of Australian Visit

BK1811144793 Hanoi VNA in English 1430 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Nov 18—Commenting on a report released on Nov. 16 by a foreign news agency quoting Australian Defence Minister Robert Ray as saying that the Australian Government would send a team to Vietnam to 'investigate into the human right issue in the country', a spokesperson for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said on Nov. 17:

'Vietnam wishes to develop the friendly and cooperative relations with all countries, including Australia, on the basis of respect for independence, sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation. Every activity to interfere in each other's internal affairs runs counter to the cooperative spirit.

'In that spirit, Vietnam sees that the sending of a so-called 'human right investigation team' by another country to Vietnam is contrary to the above-said principle'.

'On the other hand, Vietnam is ready to welcome and negotiate with fact-finding mission of foreign countries, including Australia to Vietnam, to exchange views on matters of mutual concern in the spirit of mutual respect', the diplomat added.

Politburo Resolution on National Unity

BK1811115593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 17 Nov 93

["Main contents" of Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Political Bureau's resolution: "National Great Unity and Strengthening the National United Front"; issued in Hanoi on 17 November]

[Text] Unity is the valuable tradition of our history of building and defending the nation. To continue and develop this tradition, our party since its founding has consistently paid special attention to consolidating and strengthening the all-people unity, developing the national strength, and combining national capability with that of the era. Our people's leaders have scored great victories in the struggle for national independene, freedom, and the people's happiness.

These are the key lessons and experiences of the Vietnamese revolution, which President Ho Chi Minh condensed into the motto saying: Unity, unity, great unity. Success, success, great success.

I. National great unity in the new situation:

In the current world situation, national unity is one of the most important factors. Various developing countries are undergoing a very difficult and complicated struggle to extricate themselves from poverty and backwardness and oppose hostile forces to defend their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. People of nations are encountering pressing global issues related to the common fate of mankind. This demands efforts to maintain peace, protect the environment, reduce population growth, and fight and prevent diseases.

Implementing the renovation process set and led by our party, the Vietnamese people have scored very important initial achievements, thereby creating new developmental potentials for the nation. These are favorable conditions for strengthening the all-people unity bloc to help extricate our country from backwardness and poverty and to advance further.

Nevertheless, many new issues have emerged, and efforts must be made to resolve them. Our nation now is enjoying many good opportunities while experiencing new ordeals. To grasp these opportunities and to overcome the ordeals, we must strive to consolidate the all-people great unity bloc and strengthen the National United Front.

II. Tasks of the National United Front:

The path toward socialism in our country is a long process with many stages. The goal of the initial stage is to attain a comprehensive renovation to stabilize our society, thereby creating an impact for rapid developoment in the next stage. It is imperative for us to extricate our nation from the current economic crisis and stabilize the socioeconomic situation. We must strive to fight poverty and backwardness, improve the people's daily life, consolidate national defense and security, and create favorable conditions for the nation to develop quicker at the beginning of the 21st century.

To fulfill these great, important tasks, we must strengthen unity among Vietnamese countrymen at home and abroad, develop the strength of our national community, promote the all-people great unity to a new altitude, thereby creating a new impact for national development in accordance with the party socioeconomic development strategies.

The general tasks of the National United Front at present are to develop the tradition of patriotism, nationalism, and self-reliance; motivate all Vietnamese to participate in the renovation to firmly defend national independence, unification, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; strive to fight poverty and backwardness; surge forward to achieve the goal of making the people rich, the nation poweful, and society advanced; implement President Ho Chi Minh's sacred testament; and build the Vietnamese nation in peace, unification, independence, democracy, and prosperity, thereby positively contributing to the cause of peace, independence, democracy, and progress in the world.

To fulfill these tasks, we must strive to firmly grasp the following main objectives:

1. National great unity means effort to strengthen unity among people in the great family of the Vietnamese nation—which is composed of various strata, classes, ethnic and religious groups, and people at home and abroad—for the abovementioned goals. We must strengthen unity to attain these goals while accepting differences that are not affecting the common national interests. We must strive to overcome prejudice and hatred to look toward the future, promote the spirit of solidarity, openness, and mutual trust. Everyone should work hard for national independence, freedom, and the people's happiness.

2. National great unity is the fundamental line of our party and state. The concept of national great unity must be stressed in all lines, policies, and regulations of the state and must be included in all political, economic, cultural, social, national defense and security, and foreign affairs activities. This is aimed at meeting the legitimate interests and aspiration of our people's strata. We must strive to protect the people's interests while urging them to fulfill their obligations, create favorable conditions for releasing the production force; encourage individuals and economic sectors to optimally develop their energy and intelligence to increase production, expand business, and amass wealth through honest means. We must encourage the people to practice thrift and to build and protect the nation while striving to consistently improve their material and cultural life. We must also encourage the people to actively implement various social welfare policies through the campaign of repaying those who have had meritorious services for the

nation, participate in public welfare projects and humanitarian activities, help one another to fight hunger and poverty, and develop the tradition of love and righteousness inherited from our ancestors.

3. Build a clean, steadfast, and effective people's administration that will truly be an administation of the people, by the people, and for the people. The people's administration must protect all the legitimate rights and interests of the people, firmly maintain national order and discipline, carry out and perfect the multisectoral, commodities-based economic development policy under the state control, map out and implement various social policies, protect and restore folk culture in conjuction with efforts to acquire the cultural quintessences of mankind, build new men, consolidate the all-people national defense and people's security, and expand foreign relations activites.

4. Broaden the great national unity bloc through various diverse forms of rallying the people; organize and develop mass movements from low to high; invent more forms of activity suitable to every element of society; develop the active role of those symbolic of each social class, of ethnic minority group, and each religion; direct activites toward populated areas—villages, wards, and individual households—consolidate the alliance among the working class, the peasantry, and the intelligentsia so it can truly serve as a foundation for the all-people great unity bloc.

III. Regarding the consolidation and expansion of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF], the resolution points out:

1. The VFF is a political alliance and a voluntary association of mass organizations and of those typical individuals belonging to various social classes, ethnic minority groups, and religions. The front operates in accordance with the principles of democratic consultation, equal cooperation, sincere unity, and mutual respect. It coordinate and unifies the activites of members in a collective program of action.

The VFF must be consolidated and expanded organizationally and in terms of activities to become truly a focal point of the great national unity bloc—the one that reflects the aspirations and willpower of the people of various strata and the one that unifies the actions of member organizations. The VFF must help the administration in solving differences among the people and in democratizing and renovating society. It must help care for and protect the legitimate interests of the people of various strata and help build, supervise, and protect the administration. It must help in social management and in the implementation of various economic, cultural, social, and national defense tasks, thus contributing to strengthening the closely related bloc made up of the people, the party, and the state.

It is necessary to strengthen the front committees at various levels in the direction of recruiting more reliable and competent people from various social strata, ethnic minority groups, religions, the intelligentsia, private firms, and so forth.

The support apparatus of the front committees at various levels must be compact with the emphasis to be placed on quality and must be capable of rallying many competent specialists into each domain of activity of the front.

Front affairs cadres at each echelon must be arranged rationally in such a way to make sure that they can fulfill their assigned duties.

The front committees at various levels must be responsible for organizing overall coordination between their member organizations and the administration at a corresponding level in motivating senior citizens, typical notables and intellectuals, industrialists and businessmen, those people representing various ethnic minority groups, clergymen, religions, overseas Vietnamese and their relatives living in Vietnam, and in further broadening various public relations activities of the front.

2. State organs must instituitionalize the responsibilities and authority of the front so the front can truly become a political organ of the people's administration. Especially, the front must participate in the election of various agencies, in working out various policies and regulations, in carrying out socioeconomic management, and in the supervision of the activities of state organs, of people's elected representatives, and of state cadres and employees.

State organs must cooperate with the front committees at various levels in fully implementing all those stipulations in the constitution and the law and must create favorable conditions for the VFF and its member organizations to operate effectively.

3. With its duty as both a component member and the leader of the front, the party must correctly implement its vanguard role. Party cadres and members must set good examples in complying with policies and law. They must associate themselves closely with the people, regularly carry out self criticism, and listen to the critical views of the people and the front.

Party cadres and members must be fully aware of the importance of front-related policies and activities. They must rid themselves of those erroneous views, especially their tendency to belittle front-related activities, their prejudices, and narrow-minded behaviors.

It is necessary to overcome the state of appointing front cadres at will and arbitrarily in a way not commensurate with their positions. We must have a satisfactory policy toward front cadres.

Implementing the great national unity strategy and strengthening the National Unified Front is the duty of various echelons, sectors, and of the entire political system.

This resolution must be thoroughly studied among the entire party, state organs, front agencies, and mass organizations.

Party committees must work out substantive plans to deploy this resolution.

Vu Oanh Attends VFF Meeting in Hanoi

BK1711144593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] A Vietnam Radio correspondent reports that this morning in Hanoi, the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee held a meeting to mark the 63th founding anniversary of the National United Front [NUF]. Attending the function were Comrades Vu Oanh, Le Quang Dao, Pham Van Kiet, and many other from the VFF Central Committee Presidium. Five visiting revolutionary comrades who were given death sentences by the Americans and their puppets in South Vietnam also attended the meeting.

Speaking at the function, Comrade Pham Van Kiet, general secretary of the VFF Central Committee reviewed the efficient activities of the NUF in the past 63 years. In particular, in the past five years, in implementing the policy to strengthen and reform the NUF work outlined by the VFF Third National Congress, the NUF has engaged in broader and more practical activities to consolidate and strengthen the national unity block.

He also said that the party Political Bureau had just issued a resolution on the great national solidarity and on strengthening the NUF. The resolution has a very important significance; it confirms the strategic importance of the great national unity and the consolidation and broadening of the NUF in the new situation.

At the function, the VFF Central Committee conferred For the Great National Unity medals to the five revolutionary soldiers given death sentences: Nguyen Thi Giang, Nguyen Van Tam, Phung Ngoc Anh, Mai Tan Hoang, and Truong Van Nhanh.

Doan Khue Attends Military Exercise

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[Text] A military exercise was held in Ninh Binh Province on 12-14 November to evaluate the party leadership, government management, and military guidance on national defense duties in the provincial area. General Doan Khue, member of the party Political Bureau and minister of national defense, and many leading comrades of the Ministry of National Defense and Third Military Region inspected the exercise.

The three-day exercise, which was carried out under the guidance of Resolution No. 2 of the party Political Bureau, clearly manifested that the leaders of local authorities, government organs, mass organizations, military bodies, reservist units, and militia forces in the entire province thoroughly and profoundly comprehended the Political Bureau resolution. All provincial and grassroot levels realized their concrete responsibility in the local national defense duty, which clearly showed in the different steps of the exercise. The thorough understanding of the situation and duty, the preparation of documents, and the mobilization of the armed forces to deal with different situations were promptly carried out by the participants of the exercise. Conscience of vigilance, the readiness for combat, and the coordination of different forces were upgraded through the exercise.

General Doan Khue highly evaluated the efforts exerted by the provincial party committee and people's committee, government bodies, and mass organizations of Ninh Binh Province during the exercise. He also pointed out their shortcomings so that the responsible organs can overcome their weaknesses in the future for the satisfactory implementation of their national defense duty in the province.

Second National Peasants Congress Opens

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[Report on the 18 November Hanoi opening of the Second National Congress of the Vietnam Peasants' Association]

[Summary] The Second National Congress of the Vietnam Peasants' Assocation was solemnly opened at the Ba Dinh conference hall in Hanoi this morning.

Attending the congress were "Do Muoi, general secretary of the Party Central Committee; Le Duc Anh, president of the state; Vo Van Kiet, prime minister; Nong Duc Manh, chairman of the National Assembly; Pham Van Dong and Vo Chi Cong, advisers to the party Central Committee; members of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau" and representatives of various ministries, branches and sectors.

Following an opening speech delivered by Comrade Nguyen Thanh Tho, vice chairman of the Vietnam Peasants' Association, Comrade Nguyen Van Chinh, member of the Party Central Committee and chairman of the Vietnam Peasants' Association, read a report on how the association has implemented the Party Central Committee's fifth plenum resolution. The report said:

"Over the years, despite natural calamities in various areas, peasants have been able to overcome difficulties and develop production thanks to their mutual assistance and solidarity. In 1992 and 1993, rural economy ranked first among various national economic sectors, accounting for 40 percent of the total social product value, 50 percent of total national income, and over 50 percent of the total export value. Grain yield reached over 24.5 million, thus helping to end the scourge of food shortage and create a surplus for reserves and export."

Specific targets to be attained between now and the year 2000 will, among other things, consist of steadily meeting the people's needs for grain and foodstuffs, doing away with hunger and poverty in high-lying areas and in areas inhabited by ethnic minority groups, building new rural countryside with a developed economic and cultural life and a solid political system, guiding agricultural development in the direction of commodity production, expanding the consumer market, applying technical innovations, increasing product quality, and lowering production costs.

Next, "Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi addressed the congress. After praising the achievements recorded by the association and the peasants movement over the years, the comrade general secretary emphasized:

[Begin recording] "The peasants' association is a political-social organization that widely rallies various strata of population under the party leadership. It operates in accordance with the constitution and the state law. Its main area of operation is the rural area—covering villages, hamlets, and neighborhoods—where countless problems directly related to production and the lives of tens of millions of peasant households are taking place daily. Various organizations of the association should firmly grasp the thinking and aspirations of peasants and should help them tackle their problems.

"In rural areas, now there is a tendency to develop the commodity-based economy which is operated under the market system and the state control with efforts to restore and improve various traditional professions and with the emergence of many new occupations from crop cultivation. [Words indistinct], handicraft, artisan, and industrial production and support service are very copious and diverse. The more production develops and the more the division of labor is carried out extensively, the greater will be the demand for cooperation among peasants.

"In order to create conditions for cooperation in production and business and for mutual support in increased production, generating capital, obtaining crop seeds, technical services, working experiences, expanding branches and trades, marketing products, and protecting its legitimate interests, the Peasants' Association should renovate itself organizationally, trying to determine a realistic and appropriate course of action for itself in order to meet the people's socioeconomic interests and to create a strong momentum within its internal ranks and in every hamlet, neighborhood, and cooperative organization. On this basis, it should strengthen itself organizationally, rally a large number of peasants into the association, build a steadfast infrastructure for itself in various areas, in various branches and trades, and in various socioeconomic domains in the countryside.

"It is necessary to shift the association to practical actions in order to meet peasants' interests and requirements and to tackle those issues demanded by peasants." [end recording]

Also at the opening session, the Vietnam Peasants' Association conferred For-The-Vietnam se-Peasantry Orders on Comrade Do Muoi, Le Duc Anh, Vu Oanh, and Nguyen Huu Tho.

This afternoon, delegates heard welcoming speeches by Le Quang Dao, member of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee Presidium; Ngo The Dan, deputy minister of agriculture and food industry; Duong Van Bao of the 9th Division under the Cuu Long Military Corps; and Historian Van Tao.